FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

National Dialogue Conference — The conference in Lausanne will start 8 hours later than scheduled because of the late arrival of Syria's representative, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Beirut radio reported. President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Lausanne on 11 March to preside over the conference, the radio noted. MENA announced earlier that Al-Jumayyil had met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on 10 March before leaving for Europe while Damascus and Voice of Lebanon radios reported a telephone conversation between the Syrian and Lebanese presidents that day. Meanwhile, a Damascus radio commentary on the Lausanne conference stressed that the conferees must adopt a nationalist Lebanese position "in harmony with Syria's security and national interests."

The Lebanese Front's working paper for the conference proposes a federal system in which the central government would be responsible for foreign and defense policy while each province would be administered by a governor, an executive council, and a decisionmaking council, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Phalange Party official Karim Baqraduni earlier told the Paris paper *LIBERATION* that any attempt to deny the reality of "cantons" and centralize power will only lead to a new round of civil war, KUNA reported. However, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri strongly opposed the idea of a confederation of cantons in remarks reported by Damascus radio. Birri also admitted that Amal and the National Salvation Front have not reached a unified stand, although he noted in an interview broadcast by Beirut radio that there is understanding between the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Amal Movement on many issues. The Shi'ite leader condemned recent shelling of Beirut's southern suburb as an attempt to force the opposition to retreat from "certain stands."

Security Situation — As clashes continued in and around the capital over the weekend, Beirut radio described the fighting on 10 March as "fierce and bloody" and cited reports that around 13 people were killed and over 50 were injured, many of the casualties being caused by shelling of the southern suburbs. Earlier, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon accused gunmen of the "Khomeyniite-communist alliance" of heating up the security situation.

In a separate development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Soviet personnel were seen manning PSP vehicles and artillery in the Lebanese mountains. Arab sources cited by the Tel Aviv's *HA'ARETZ* asserted that Soviet intelligence officers have established two bases in Lebanon separately from the Syrians and in cooperation with the Lebanese leftist groups.

Syria

New Government, Vice Presidents — Presidential decrees issued on 11 March appointed 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Rif'at al-Asad, and Zuhayr Mashariqah as vice presidents and announced details of Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm's new government, Damascus radio reported. Faruq ash-Shar' takes over Khaddam's post as foreign minister and new ministers of information, higher education, electricity, oil, and construction have been appointed. General Mustafa Talas remains defense minister and also becomes deputy prime minister.

Aliyev Visit — President al-Asad received CPSU Politburo member Geydar Aliyev on 11 March following the latter's arrival in Syria the previous day at the start of a 3-day visit, Damascus radio reported. The talks focused on bilateral cooperation, the international and Middle East situation, and issues of common interest. The Soviet visitor also held two rounds of talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam who stated at a banquet in Aliyev's honor that Lebanon's decision to abrogate the agreement with Israel demonstrates the possibility of "foiling the Camp David trend and the treaty concluded between the Egyptian Government and the Israeli enemy," according to the radio. Khaddam called on "our brothers in Egypt" to follow Lebanon's example. As for the forthcoming Lebanese National Dialogue Conference, he said President al-Asad has instructed the Syrian delegation at Lausanne to exert "all efforts" for national accord and the restoration of Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. Khaddam expressed appreciation for the "Palestinian nationalist forces" opposed to the policy of "deviation, relinquishment, and violation of the PNC resolutions" as advocated by "some" Palestinian leaders. Turning to the USSR's "great role" in supporting Syria, he said that thanks to Soviet support, Syria now possesses a "defensive power that adds important capabilities" to its moral and material powers.

In reply, Aliyev praised Syria as "the major enemy of imperialism" in the Middle East, the radio reported. In the TASS version of Aliyev's speech, the Soviet official said Syria plays "an important role in countering the American-Israeli plan in the Middle East."

Iran-Iraq War

Military Developments — Iraqi units repulsed a new Iranian offensive in the area east of Basra in an overnight battle and "completely destroyed" attacking Iranian forces, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghad Voice of the Masses radio on 12 March. The Iranians suffered a "large number" of casualties including a number of Iranian Revolution guard commanders, the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, "fierce fighting" continued over the weekend in the Majnun region, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing remarks made by the commander of the Iraqi III Army Corps. According to the Iraqi military commander, the Iranian presence in Majnun is "worthless" and the Iraqi forces are "exploiting" this presence in order to inflict the heaviest losses possible on Iranian life and equipment. According to IRNA, however, the Iraqi forces sustained "tens of casualties" in a "futile attempt" to recapture the Majnun oil fields on 11 March. Part of one Iraqi armored division was "destroyed" in the battle, IRNA added. Iraqi counterattacks launched in the southern part of the Majnun region on 10 March had earlier been repulsed by Iranian forces, Tehran radio reported. Iraqi forces were forced to withdraw from their positions after suffering "heavy losses and casualties," the radio added.

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 9 March claimed that more than 2,000 Iraqis had been killed or wounded in counterattacks to recapture the Majnun Islands during the last 3 days. In the wake of this "severe defeat," the Iraqi forces resorted to the use of chemical weapons in several areas of the Majnun region, which resulted in at least 400 Iranian soldiers being injured, Tehran radio and IRNA reported respectively. Commenting on the renewed chemical bombings, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said that such bombings cannot determine the fate of the war "under any circumstances," Tehran radio stated. However, he found it "surprising" that the "so-called anti-imperialist and popular" countries of the East bloc have not even said "one word to condemn" these acts.

Arab Conference — The Arab League General Secretariat sent memorandums to Arab countries informing them that Iraq's call for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers received majority approval, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported citing Arab League sources in Tunis. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati warned Arab countries not to try to stabilize the Baghdad regime because it "is doomed to go," Tehran radio reported on 11 March. The participation of Arab countries in the Baghdad conference will be viewed by Iran as an "unfriendly action" which will be taken into account in "future calculations" by Iran, he added.

GCC Affairs

The GCC has not "newly offered" to mediate between Iran and Iraq, SPA reported on 11 March, citing remarks made by the GCC secretary general at the conclusion of the 10th GCC foreign ministers session in Riyadh. He also denied that the expected 13 March emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers in Baghdad has a mediatory task. It is a "mere conference," he asserted. The acting chairman of the session welcomed Iraq's request to hold such a meeting and added that the GCC states will attend, SPA announced.

Jordan-PLO

King Husayn held talks with PRC President Li Xiannian on 9 March and received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat the following evening, according to Amman radio and television reports. 'Arafat also met with Li Xiannian who told the Palestinian leader that the PRC continues to support the PLO "under your leadership," XINHUA reported. While the Chinese agency said 'Arafat accepted an invitation to visit the PRC in April, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported that 'Arafat promised to visit China at a "suitable" time. As for the PLO leader's talks with King Husayn and other Jordanian officials, 'Arafat subsequently disclosed at an Amman news conference that the two sides had completed discussions on a joint plan of action which is expected to include joint visits on the Arab and international levels, Amman radio reported. He also revealed that the PLO leadership has formed a committee to hold consultations with various Palestinian organizations to determine the date and venue of the planned Palestine National Council session.

Inter-Arab Affairs

ICO General Secretary Habib Chatti informed Egypt on 11 March that it can immediately resume its ICO membership, SPA reported. Moroccan King Hassan II had earlier asked Chatti to take steps to enable Egypt to officially resume its activity inside the ICO now that Egypt's return to the organization is "final," SPA and Rabat radio noted.

In another development concerning Egypt, Arab sources in Beirut cited by KUNA stated that Syria and Egypt have agreed to maintain a "dialogue" following recent contacts that included a "secret visit" to Damascus by Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary 'Usamah al-Baz.

Egypt-Israel

In meetings with visiting Israeli Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat, Egyptian officials stressed the need for a speedy Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, reiterated the need to include Jordan and Palestinian representatives in the peace process, and urged Israel to take steps to broaden the peace process by halting arbitrary measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and by discontinuing its settlement policies, Cairo radio reported.

Libya

Bombings in Britain — The People's Committee of the Bureau for Foreign Liaison has denied any Libyan connection with the bombings in London over the weekend, JANA announced on 11 March. The committee accused the British media of conducting a "deliberate malicious and racist" campaign to cover up the British stance which protects the "stray dogs" that have committed crimes against the Libyan people. The committee affirmed that Libya will not be responsible for incidents or explosions occurring in Britain, JANA added.

French Plane Explosion — A spokesman for the People's Committee of the Bureau for Foreign Liaison, in a statement reported by JANA, denied allegations of Libyan responsibility for the explosion aboard a French plane in Ndjamena on 10 March. The incident simply confirms the deterioration of stability in Chad and the Chadian president's inability to achieve security even within the bounds of the capital, the statement added. According to Paris radio, a group calling itself "Idriss Miskine" claimed responsibility for the attack in an anonymous phone call to REUTER on 11 March. The caller also requested that France and Libya not interfere in the internal affairs of Chad.

Iran

Majlis elections will be held on 15 April, the interior minister announced in a statement reported by IRNA.

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SPA: ICO Says Egypt Can Resume Activity

LD111404 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1335 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Jidda, 11 Mar (SPA) — The ICO general secretary has informed the head of Egyptian interests in Jidda, Ahmad Abu al-Khayir, that Egypt can resume its activities and take up its seat within the ICO and its organs as of today, in accordance with the resolution of the fourth Islamic summit conference held in Casablanca in January, and in accordance with the report of the committee sent by this summit to Egypt and following the letters from His Majesty King Hassan II, president of the fourth session of the Islamic summit conference to all kings and heads of states and governments members of the organization to consider Egypt's return to the ICO as final.

Details of Decision

LD111407 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] The king's ambassador in Jiddah conveyed a message today to Habib Chatti, ICO secretary general, from King Hassan II in his capacity as chairman of the fourth session of the Islamic summit conference. The message asks him to make arrangements and to take the necessary steps to enable Egypt to officially resume its activity inside the ICO, because Egypt's return has become final and in force as of now. King Hassan II informed the secretary general in this message that Egypt's return to the ICO became final following submission of the report prepared by the special committee appointed by the fourth Islamic summit conference to make contacts with the Arab Republic of Egypt. Egypt unreservedly committed itself in this report to the rules, principles and resolutions of the ICO.

Arab States Agreeing to Ministerial Meeting Reported

JN101641 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis — The INA correspondent in Tunis has learned that the Arab League General Secretariat today sent memorandums to the Arab countries, informing them that Iraq's call for an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers has been approved by the majority. The Arab League sources told the correspondent that in its memorandums the Arab League General Secretariat fixed Tuesday as the date for the convocation of this meeting in Baghdad. It is noteworthy that 14 Arab countries other than Iraq, which called for this meeting, have agreed to attend. These countries are Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Djibouti, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, the YAR, Palestine [as heard], Kuwait, and Somalia.

PDRY To Attend

JN121013 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA) — It was learned here today that the PDRY will participate in the Arab foreign ministers' conference which will open here tomorrow. An Iraqi Foreign Ministry source told INA that the PDRY ambassador in Baghdad has informed the Ministry of this decision. The PDRY's permanent representative at the Arab League will represent his country in this conference. Thus, the number of the Arab countries which decided to participate in the conference rises to 16, in addition to Iraq.

Preparations for Meeting

JN101149 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 10 Mar (INA) — The INA correspondent in Tunis learned today that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi will leave Tunis for Tripoli, Libya, tomorrow on his way to Baghdad to attend the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting scheduled to convene in Baghdad on Tuesday. On the other hand, Arab League sources have told the INA correspondent that an Arab League delegation will leave for Baghdad tomorrow to prepare for this emergency meeting.

'Abbas To Head PLO Delegation

JN121007 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Mar 84 p 22

[Text] Amman — It has been decided that PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, will head the PLO delegation to the Arab foreign ministers' conference to be held in Baghdad tomorrow at the request of Iraq. Abu Mazin, for this purpose met last night with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The conference was also a subject of discussion between Yasir 'Arafat and Jordanian officials.

KUNA: PLO-Jordan-Syria Meeting Being Prepared

LD091456 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1408 gmt 9 mar 84

[Text] Rabat, 9 Mar (KUNA) — The KUNA Correspondent in Morocco has learned that preparations are being made in conditions of complete secrecy for a meeting between the PLO, Jordan, and Syria to find common grounds for future political aciton in the region. A high-ranking diplomatic source told KUNA that Walid Junblatt leader of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party has carried a communication of views between Syria and Jordan on matters of interest to the region and that Junblatt's role has gone beyond the scope of mediation and has brought about possitive results. The source, who refused to be named, disclosed that some Arab countries, which he declined to name, have proposed that a dialogue be organized that, if it took place, would be the first of its kind at the level of the frontline states.

It is recalled that a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue was started last month, but Syria and several Palestinian organizations opposed it. Several Arab quarters are now trying to secure Syrian support for this dialogue in order to achieve a wide-scale Arab move approved by all with regard the scope of peace in the region. The source affirmed that the success of such a meeting will pave the way for ending the Syrian-Palestinian conflict, which has prevented the holding of the Arab summit conference. The source said that the region will witness an Arab diplomatic move to settle differences in preparation for an Arab foreign ministers' conference to pave the way for an Arab summit conference.

'Arafat, Finland's Sorsa Hold Talks in Tunis

LD091504 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 9 Mar (TAP) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, had talks yesterday evening with Prime Minister of Finland Kalevi Sorsa, who is paying an official visit to Tunisia. WAFA reported that 'Arafat expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Finnish people for the many big voluntary groups which participate in the [word indistinct] and cultural field in order to assist the Palestinian people at its various camps, especially in Lebanon. The agency added that the meeting dealt with relations between the PLO and the Finnish Government and current developments concerning the Arab, Palestinian, and international aspects of the Palestinian problem.

Further Details

GF091846 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met with the Finnish prime minister yesterday in Tunis. During the meeting, they discussed the developments of the Palestinian issue in the Arab and the international arenas, in addition to bilateral relations. The Finnish prime minister asserted his country's understanding and positive response toward the just rights of the Palestinian people. On the other hand, Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed his appreciation of the efforts of the Finnish people who play a large part in the medical and educational services designed to help the Palestinian people in various arears, particularly in Lebanon.

Fatah Discusses Joint PFLP-DFLP Memorandum

JN111024 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Mar 84 p 24

[Text] Tunis — Exclusive to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — A subcommittee of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement charged with finding a working formula to constitute a basis for a tripartite meeting to be held soon among the Fatah movement, the PFLP, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] is currently meeting here. The PFLP and the DFLP had previously drawn up a memorandum of understanding and presented it to the Central Committee of the Fatah movement so that the expected tripartite meeting could be based on the principles of this memorandum. This meeting is expected to deal with many of the organisational problems facing the PLO — problems which until now have prevented the convening of the Palestinian institutions, especially the PLO Executive Committee and its Central Council due to lack of the required quorum. The PFLP-DFLP memorandum concerns the need to preserve the unity of the PLO and the unity of the activities of its institutions as well as a commitment to the political and organisational program that was approved by the Palestine National Council in its 14th session.

Fatah Member on Central Committee Meetings

JN090939 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 9 Mar (INA) — Fatah Central Committee member Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym] has said that the Fatah Central Committee is continuing the meetings it began yesterday to discuss the internal Palestinian situation. In a statement to an INA correspondent here today, he pointed out that during its meetings the committee will discuss relations with the independent Palestinian organizations, reconvening the PNC, and the situation in the Palestinian arena and the Palestinian institutions, as well as topics related to reconvening the fourth Fatah general congress, Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Jordan, and the results of his talks with King Husayn. Abu Mahir denied that a confirmed date for reconvening the PNC has been set. He pointed out that this subject has not yet been discussed on the levels of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee. The Palestinian official said that the PNC will reconvene in Algiers as a result of a request from the Algerian Government to host the PNC.

Regarding the results of activities by the committee entrusted with drawing up a study of future relations with Egypt — a committee formed by the Fatah Central Committee — Abu Mahir said that the aforementioned committee has met and discussed all aspects of this subject. He said that this committee will hold additional meetings in order to draw up a study of this issue through coordination with the PLO Executive Committee. Abu Mahir said that the aforementioned committee is not authorized to hold directed contacts with Egyptian officials, and that its role is confined to preparing a study of the concept of future relations between the PLO Executive Committee and Egypt and presenting this study to the PLO Executive Committee, which will take the necessary action in this regard.

'Arafat Interview on Relations With Syria, Opposition

GF101100 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0938 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Mar (WAKH) — Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has said that there are no proposed plans for solving the Palestinian problem. In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'*, published today, Mr 'Arafat added that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak informed him in a message that there are no proposed plans except that of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and nothing else. Mr 'Arafat said: "This is what we have expected especially in the U.S. election year during which we have to expect more U.S. concessions for Israel at the expense of the Arabs and the Palestinians." He described his talks with the Jordanian monarch as frank, positive, fruitful and aimed at a joint action that is based on organizing the relationship between the PLO — considering it to be the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people — and Jordan. He added that relations between them will be organized on strong and equal bases to enable them to makeunified moves, and to pursue the implementation of Fes summit resolutions on all international levels and work sincerely to save our people and lands from the occupation and its plans.

Mr 'Arafat expressed readiness to open a new chapter with Syria on the basis of nonintervention in our affairs and respecting our indepdendent national Palestinian decisionmaking. He said that the Fatah Central Committee decided to open a political dialogue with all the independent Palestinian organizations which did not raise arms against Fatah and which are the PFLP, the DFLP,the Palestine Liberation Front and the Palestinian Communist Party. He said that this dialogue is continuing and is expected toend during the next few days and that it is in light of the results of this dialogue that the PNC will be convened in order to implement the decisions of the Executive Committtee. He also pointed out that the Executive Committee formed a four-member committee whose task is to prepare for the PNC meeting, and that these consultations are expected to end within the next 2 weeks prior to the PNC meeting in Algeria.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Foreign Ministers Hold 10th Meeting

Session Opens in Riyadh

LD101220 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Ministerial Council of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council began the work of its tenth session at 1145 today at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the GCC in Riyadh. The chairman of the session — Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayif Al-Thani — delivered a speech declaring the session open.

The chairman commented on the Iraq-Iran war. He said that it is entering a new stage of development. He said that despite the great efforts exerted by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, in his capacity as the current chairman of the Supreme Council of the GCC, and given his continuous contacts with the various internationally influential sides, and despite all the efforts exerted by various other international parties, the results we all hoped for did not materialize. He praised the Iraqi Government's response to these efforts.

After this, the foreign ministers of the GCC countries held a closed meeting to debate a number of subjects connected with Gulf cooperation in addition to the issues before the Arab and international arenas.

Ministers Conclude Talks

LD112338 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2245 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Mar (SPA) — The GCC foreign ministers have concluded their 10th session, which was chaired by Qatari Foreign Minister Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani. The council is made up of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

Afterward, the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs and chairman of the session, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf al Thani, along with GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah, held a press conference. During the press conference, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani praised the good offices of the Kingdom for solving the Lebanese question. He expressed the hope that the Lebanese national dialogue conference in Lausanne will produce positive results that satisfy all sides.

The Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs welcomed Iraq's request to hold an emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers. He said that the GCC states will attend this conference, which will be held in Baghdad on 13 March. He hoped the emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers will discuss all the subjects that had been included by the Arab League General Secretariat on the agenda of the conference.

On the other hand, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah said that it is not true that the GCC has newly offered to mediate to end the war between Iraq and Iran. He also dismissed as untrue a report that the expected Baghdad conference has a mediatory task. He described the conference as merely a conference.

The GCC secretary general pointed out that the economic agreement between the GCC states is progressing according to plan, and has begun its second implementaiton stage. He said the organs of the member-states cannot proceed with the desired speed, and it is better not to hurry things but to proceed in secure and safe steps.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Comments on GCC Talks

LD120944 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Mar (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and minister of information, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Kuwait at dawn today after taking part in the 10th session of the GCC Ministerial Council which ended its work in Riyadh last night.

In a statement to the press on his arrival, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that in the past 2 days the ministers discussed all the items on the agenda of this session. He added: "Those issues included the raging war between our brothers in Iraq and Iran, and the resulting danger and destruction to the two sides and the entire region. In light of the recent regrettable escalation, we found it imperative to answer with (?pleasure) the invitation by fraternal Iraq to hold an emergency meeting of the Arab League council."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said: "We hope we will be able to deal with the matter on the Arab level because of the importance of it, as well as the danger to which the region is exposed as a result of this bloodshed and destruction. We also hope that participation in this meeting will fully reflect the reality of Arab solidarity in circumstances which call for the unification of all efforts, regardless of differences in views and stances."

Oin the other hand, GCC Secretary General Abdallah Bisharah denied that the GCC had offered new mediation to end the war between Iran and IRAQ.

Iraqi Call for Arab League Meeting Welcomed

LD100959 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 Mar (KUNA) — Kuwait has agreed to Iraq's invitation to convene an emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries in Baghdad on the 13th of this month.

In a statement to journalists, Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign and information minister, declared that while Kuwait welcomes Iraq's invitation, it would like the ministerial conference to achieve two important things: First, it should lead to a comprehensive rallying of the Arab world, especially under these difficult conditions. Second, it should cause peace to prevail in this region through the efforts of the sincere sons of the region and the other sister countries.

Today, an official Foreign Ministry source stated that Shaykh Sabah has conveyed Kuwait's official acceptance to the invitation to attend the conference in a cable he sent to Chedli Klibi, general secretary of the Arab League, and Tariq ‘Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iran.

Regarding the American statements that America will not allow the Strait of Hormuz to be shut, and that it will endeavor to ensure navigation in the strait by force, Shaykh Sabah pointed out that more than once he had stated that navigation in the strait concerns not only the countries of the region but of the entire world. He said that he did not want a specific pledge to come from a particular side, but it is up to the entire world to understand [the need to ensure] continuity and safety of navigation in this vital international route.

As for the abrogation of the 17 May agreement between Lebanon and Israel, Shaykh Sabah pointed out that he previously made Kuwait's stance regarding this matter public. He welcomed the step, after which peace and harmony could prevail in Lebanon and which will give the Lebanese brethren the opportunity to reunite their country and protect its sovereignty and independence.

Iraqis Gather at Embassy; Demand End To War

LD111422 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Mar (KUNA) — Despite a sandstorm, thousands of Iraqis gathered before their country's embassy here today demanding that the war between Iraq and Iran be stopped.

The demonstrators — estimated at between 5000 and 7000 — carried pictures of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and placards demanding the implementation of the Arab joint defense agreement and the end of the war. Women, children and old people took part in the demonstration, as well as Iraqi Ambassador ‘Abd al-Jabbar ‘Umar Ghani and the embassy staff. A number of speeches were made at the demonstration, which was orderly and quiet, in which the speakers stressed their jealousy of the security and stability of Kuwait.

In his address, Iraqi Ambassador ‘Abd al-Jabir ‘Umar Ghani said: "This gathering today is irrefutable evidence that the Iraqi people everywhere stand by the leadership of Saddam Husayn. Strong and capable Iraq," he added, "has responded to all sincere calls to stop this bloodshed and to stop the war. Since the first week, President Saddam Husayn has called for an end to the war and for negotiations to ensure Iraq's rights and dignity. We have also responded to the calls of the UN Security Council, the Islamic Congress, the Nonaligned Movement, and to the calls of all our friends. However, the Iranian side had rejected all appeals for peace and for an end to the bloodshed." "From this place," he added, "and in your name, we demand that the Iranian regime refrain from aggression against Iraq, an Arab Muslim country, and respond to Iraq's honest calls to stop this war, which Iran started against our people in Iraq on 4 September 1980."

The Iraqi ambassador added in his speech: "We demand, in your name and from this place, that all Arab countries stand by the side of Iraq, and that the joint defense treaty and the Fes resolutions on this subject be implemented. We also demand that the Arab governments and the sons of our Arab people everywhere dismantle, expose and disclose the traitors of the Arab nation." He thanked all Arab brothers who stood by Iraq — those who volunteered for the battlefields, or those who wrote with their pens, or expressed their feelings, or offered material, political and moral support.

The Iraqi ambassador asked the Iraqi citizens to maintain the security and stability of Kuwait and to cooperate with all the sincere people who are concerned about the development and the prosperity of this brotherly country, because the security of Kuwait is the security of Iraq.

Envoy Scores U.S. Plan For Jordanian Gulf Force

LD100946 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0822 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Mar (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States accused the American Administration of trying to involve the Gulf region in an arms deal for Jordan with a ridiculous justification.

Shaykh Sa‘ud Nasir as-Sabah, in an interview with *AL-WATAN*published today regarding an American plan to form a Jordanian military force to intervene in the defense of the Gulf, said that the Jordanian and Kuwaiti armies are one army, and if we need the Jordanian Army it will be with us within 24 hours."

Jordan had asked the United States for shoulder-fired antiaircraft missiles and some sophisticated weapons estimated at $200 million.

As-Sabah added that: "The American Administration is trying to involve the Gulf in a way to convince [words indistinct] to agree to the arms deal, but these justifications are ridiculous." Shaykh Sa‘ud Nasir as-Sabah pointed out that: "The American Administration is trying to convince Congress that these forces are for the protection of the Gulf, i.e. the protection of oil, i.e. the protection of American interests according to the administration. Jordan, however, has announced its rejection of this force, and all that it asks for is to renew its weapons to protect its security and stability against Israel and to participate in the security of the other Arab countries."

PDRY

Near East Regional Conference Opens in Aden

Arab Delegations Arrive

GF101810 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Edward ‘Sumah, general director of the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], which is affiliated with the United Nations, arrived in Aden today to take part in the 17th session of the Near East regional conference which will be held in our country between 11-15 March.

In addition, the delegations which have arrived to take part in this conference are those from Bahrain, Kuwait, Libya, Iraq, Tunisia, Iran, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and the Sultanate of Oman. Other arrivals are Muhammad ash-Shati, secretary general of the Arabic center for [words indistinct], and the delegation from the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

YSP Chairman Addresses Conference

GF111944 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The 17th session of the FAO Near East Regional Conference began in the conference hall at the Aden hotel this morning. The opening session was attended by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers; several members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee; ministers; a number of officials; and represenattives of Arab countries and the diplomatic corps in Aden.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad delivered a speech during the opening session in which he praised the convening of the conference and the efforts which were exerted in preparing for it. He expressed his wish that this session achieve success and provide positive results which will contribute to strengthening the constructive international efforts in confronting the challenges which obstruct the development of the Near Eastern countries.

The brother secretary general pointed out the great dependence of the developing countries, particularly the region's countries, on food imported from the monopolizing capitalist countries which have imposed hegemony on the production of the most important crops. He said this dependence seriously threatens the lives and progress of our countries and our peoples, as well as their security and sovereignty, particularly when food is being used as a weapon against countries trying to achieve economic benefits and political stances which harm their security and sovereignty. He affirmed the importance of working to achieve self-sufficiency and of building up adequate food reserves in our countries.

In his speech, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reviewed the difficult circumstances which the PDRY has faced in the agricultural field since their independence. He also reviewed the efforts which have been exerted to develop this important sector and to prepare development plans for improving and developing agricultural and fisheries production. As a result, the investments in the food sector amount to one-third of all financial and economic investments. He affirmed that the agricultural sector still requires huge investments and stressed that the efforts which our countries are exerting for the revival of food production is in the course of the constructive international efforts to achieve food security in the world.

PLF Secretary General Ya'qub Visits for Talks

GF091818 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF], arrived in Aden this evening on a visit which will last several days, during which he will meet with a number of state and party leaders to discuss the developments of situation in the Palestinian and Arab arenas and other issues of mutual concern.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Tal'at Ya'qub said that his visit to the PDRY is for discussing with YSP leaders the developing situation in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. In his statement, he praised the struggle of the Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian resistance. He said that this struggle has succeeded in scrapping the 17 May agreement. He added that this achievement is the final defeat of the Reagan initiative in the region, since one of the goals of this initiative was the Zionist-U.S. invasion of Lebanon.

On his arrival, he was received by Brother Abd al-Gahni Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, along with PLO and PLF representatives in Aden.

SAUDI ARABIA

Delegation Leaves for Conference on Lebanon

LD110915 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0855 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Mar (SPA) — Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud left for Geneva today to take part in the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference scheduled to open in Lausanne on Monday. The minister is accompanied by a delegation which includes Ahmad Qattan, representative of the Foreign Ministry, and Yusuf al-'Amran, director of the minister's office. It should be noted that the Kingdom is taking part in the conference as an observer.

Cairo Reports Mubarak 11 March CBS Interview

NC112221 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2112 GMT 11 Mar 84

['Abbas Mutawwali dispatch from Washington — recorded]

[Text] In a long interview characterized by extreme frankness, President Husni Mubarak spoke to the U.S. CBS television network on various issues pertaining to the development of the Palestinian issue and to Egyptian relations with Israel, the United States, and the Arab states.

At the beginning of the interview, President Mubarak replied to a question on a statement he made following his talks with President Reagan in which he said the United States must initiate a dialogue with the PLO as a prelude to solving the Palestinian problem. He said he has often reiterated this position — that all the Arab League resolutions stipulate that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. As for the U.S. position, which is based on the non-initiation of dialogue with the PLO until it recognizes Israel's right to exist, President Mubarak asked: Why doesn't the United States initiate a dialogue with the PLO to convince it to accept UN Resolution 242? It is in the interest of the Palestinian and Israeli sides to have this dialogue.

In reply to reports that King Husayn is afraid to enter into a dialogue with Israel because Syria might move against him, just as it did in Lebanon, President Mubarak said: King Husayn is in a difficult position and needs the support of the United States and Egypt. For this reason, Egypt is attempting to help him form a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to begin negotiations with Israel. He said it is impossible for King Husayn to negotiate with Israel without the participation of a delegation representing the Palestinians.

Asked about Henry Kissinger's statement that Syria has dealt a successful blow to the United States in Lebanon, President Mubarak disputed this statement. He maintained that the United States is a significant power, that Syria is cognizant of the size of its power, and that a comparison can in no way be made between the two. He said President al-Asad is trying to solve the problem, because his country has security interests in Lebanon.

In reply to a question as to whether Egypt is afraid that Syria will force it to abrogate the peace treaty with Israel as it forced Lebanon to abrogate the troop withdrawal agreement with Israel, President Mubarak said Egypt is an established, independent state. The Nile valley witnessed the birth of the first government in history. Egypt knows its way and abides by the treaties it signs. He ruled out the possibility that President al-Asad will attempt to move against Egypt in any way. He denied that Egypt's return to the Arab League would be contingent on the abrogation of the peace treaty with Israel.

In response to Israel's accusations that Egypt is violating the Camp David accords, President Mubarak enumerated Israel's actions which violate these two accords, including the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, the annexation of Arab East Jerusalem, and the freezing of the Palestinian autonomy talks due to Israel's insistence on holding them in Jerusalem despite an earlier understanding between the late President Anwar as-Sadat and former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to hold them in a place other than Jerusalem.

Regarding the withdrawal of the Egyptian ambassador from Israel, President Mubarak refuted Israel's claims that Egypt used Israel's invasion of Lebanon as an excuse to withdraw its ambassador to return to the Arab fold. He said the Egyptian ambassador was withdrawn in the wake of the massacres committed in Lebanon. He said if Egypt had desired to use this as a means to return to the Arab fold, it would have expelled the Israeli ambassador from Egypt and closed the Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

President Mubarak replied positively to observations that the peace between Egypt and Israel is a cold peace. He justified this by saying Egypt is dealing with Israel just as it deals with any other state in the world. Egypt cannot take an indifferent position while Israel is committing various violations of the peace treaty, and at a time when its forces continue to occupy Lebanon. He said the Israelis are demanding everything and give nothing in return.

The interview then dealt with U.S. aid to Egypt and the inclination in Congress to link this aid with the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. Commenting on this, President Mubarak said Congress will make a grave mistake if it adopts such a step. He thinks the link should be by persuading Israel to completely withdraw from Lebanon and solve the Palestinian problem.

Asked whether he is prepared to visit Israel to settle the outstanding issues between the two countries, President Mubarak said he cannot do that while Israel is occupies Lebanon and the talks on the Palestinian issue are frozen. He asked: Why is Egypt always being asked to act and not Israel? He said he doesn't ask the United States to use its influence to limit Israel's strength, but he wants it to take its interests in the area into consideration.

President Mubarak also replied in the affirmative to a question onwhether Egypt is prepared to return its ambassador to Moscow. He cited the example of India, which maintains close relations with the Soviet Union and normal relations with the United States. He said Egypt's relations with the United States are close, and it has no objection to establishing normal relations with the Soviet Union when the conditions are appropriate.

Concluding his interview with the U.S. CBS television network, President Mubarak spoke on the reasons for banning the American movie which depicts the life of the late President Anwar as-Sadat. He said the movie renders a bad impression of the late Presidents Anwar as-Sadat and Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, and distorts Egyptian history. Were he to permit its showing, the Egyptian people would get a bad impression of the United States.

Reportage on Visit of Sudanese President Numayri

Arrives in Aswan; Meets Mubarak

NC111218 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Aswan, 11 Mar (MENA) — Official talks between President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri commenced in Aswan at noon following the Sudanese president's arrival today in Aswan.

The talks dealt with the latest developments in Africa, the Middle East, and Lebanon, as well as the Iraqi-Iranian war. Steps taken toward Egyptian and Sudanese integration, and efforts required to push this forward in the coming stage were also discussed.

Content of Talks Noted

NC111859 Paris AFP in English 1834 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Aswan, Upper Egypt, March 11 (AFP) — Unrest in southern Sudan, where rebel violence has broken out again in the past six months, was one of the topics discussed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese leader Ja'far Numayri here today.

Ethiopia's cancellation of a meeting between its foreign minister and the Sudanese foreign minister due to have been held in Nairobi tomorrow was also high on the agenda. Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde [as received] today said his country would not negotiate "under pressure", claiming that the United States was airlifting sophisticated weapons to Sudan. The cancellation of the Nairobi meeting is seen as a failure for Egyptian diplomacy. Egypt, which has a mutual defence agreement with Sudan, had been encouraging the Khartoum government to open a dialogue with Ethiopia, which serves as a refuge for the southern Sudanese rebels.

Mr Numayri later left here today to return to Khartoum.

Mubarak-Numayri News Conference

NC111845 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) — Following 2 and 1/2 hours of talks, interrupted by a working luncheon, Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Ja'far Numayri held a news conference this afternoon in Aswan.

At the outset of the conference, Mubarak made a speech in which he began by welcoming the Sudanese president as a brother and friend. Mubarak said: I'm used to meeting President Numayri from time to time to exchange views on the issues pertaining to the two parts of the Nile valley, as well as the problems encompassing our area, and the international problems affecting the Middle East in any way.

President Mubarak and President Numayri discussed a number of issues, foremost among them being the Middle East cause and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

President Numayri said national unity is fostered in the Sudan, and the regular armed forces are fully performing their duties. He also noted that stability is now maintained in the south, and that the foreign companies are displaying a readiness to return to work there.

Numayri was asked about the recent rebellion movement in southern Sudan — whether it was only aimed at the south or the Sudan as a whole, and how this rebellion is affected by the Sudanese peace strategy. He answered: All movements attempting to hinder the march of states and governments produce their excuses, but this is of no use to their homeland or country from which they originate.

Numayri added: In Sudan, the revolution was able to stop a war that lasted for 17 years, and to achieve Sudan's national unity. Under this revolution we have advanced greatly, built many projects, and created a new spirit which has helped us to transfer authority to the masses in the remote areas — Sudan is almost as large as half a continent.

Continuing his reply to the same question, President Numayri said that the element of surprise had eventually dissipated, and we began to realize who was dealing the blows and how many. Thus, we wasted no time in making the armed forces assume their duties.

Numayri added that the initiative is now in the hands of the armed forces. The blows by the outlaws are subsiding and they are beginning to flee their positions.

The Sudanese president said: I think security has been attained and with reason; that is, some of the companies operating in the south telephoned us and expressed the desire to reopen — these are oil companies such as Chevron.

President Numayri said in reply to the same question that several opposition elements in the south or southern regions dissatisfied with the policy of the Sudanese Government for personal reasons, have often tried and succeeded in attracting a number of officers and soldiers in those regions. However, this has turned against them, because many of the brothers who were mobilized have rebelled against these opponents in the south, forcing them to flee to the jungle and neighboring countries. He pointed out that these opponents then began mobilizing supporters from among Sudan's foreign enemies — Libya, Ethiopia, and the Marxist countries. The opponents received financial support which enabled them to receive training and a good supply of weapons.

President Numayri said: The rebellion movement then surprised us with an attack on several vital targets — a situation that affected us from the security point of view and affected some projects which we were building in these provinces. It also prompted certain production companies to suspend operations.

President Numayri said the attack also led to the suspension of communications between south and north. The transportation of foodstuffs to the south also was suspended. He pointed out that "this surprised us, and we were in a state of bewilderment for 10 or 15 days."

President Numayri added: This action has regrettably crystallized and become organized under the so-called "Liberation Army in Sudan." Its aim, as it said in its statement, is to liberate Sudan by murdering the president of Sudan, the vice presidents, the Cabinet ministers, and every citizen who helps the present regime. They also said this ia a Marxist movement.

He said: The statement or that declaration was written and signed by the commander of the opponents' force. We were very happy with this statement and benefited from it, because we know that the Sudanese people — the Christians, Muslims, and atheists — hate communism.

He added: We were very happy, and launched a propaganda campaign to promote this statement. Thank God the people in the areas where these opponents are present understood what was happening and greatly helped in containing these opponents, who undermined security in that area.

President Ja'far Numayri said: I would like to say these people were well armed, and this fact was admitted by President al-Qadhdhafi, because he is this army's principal source of finance. Al-Qadhdhafi said: We have begun to liberate Sudan, and will liberate every inch of it. We will then begin with Egypt.

President Numayri added: But I heard another statement from Al-Qadhdhafi in which he asked for unity with Egypt. He wants to liberate Sudan, and simultaneously wants unity with Egypt. Nevertheless, we welcome him if he wants unity or if he intends to make any effort for the sake of peace. We seek no sabotage.

President Numayri pointed out that Al-Qadhdhafi paid an exorbitant amount to train these people. We have discovered very advanced weapons and extremely sophisticated explosives and ammunition. The renegades would never have managed to carry out operations during the night had it not been for the high standard of training. We also discovered sophisticated communications equipment and jamming devices to disrupt our forces' communications equipment. Sudan is a large country, and consequently we just cannot cover every spot through aerial surveillance to monitor whether or not there are hostile aircraft.

President Numayri said: We know an aircraft entered Sudan, landed, and abducted a number of the company's [not further identified] employees and flew them to Ethiopia. This confirms that there was major assistance that affected the security in the south.

He added: I would like to say and reaffirm that the regions' governors and councils in Bahr al-Ghazal and Upper Nile reject this action, and the masses there also reject this unjustified action. They all reiterate that they will not give the rebels a chance.

President Numayri said: We know that the brothers in Libya, Ethiopia, and the PDRY signed a trilateral agreement with the blessing of a superpower to carry out intrigues in this area.

President Numayri added: Al-Qadhdhafi's announcement that he will liberate Sudan inch by inch — though Sudan covers 2 million square miles — is part of their strategy, President Numayri said sarcastically. We wonder how many years it will take Al-Qadhdhafi to liberate our country inch by inch. We also don't know how many inches he can liberate in 1 day, 1 hour, or 1 minute. At any rate, it will take him a very long time. It would be better for Al-Qadhdhafi to liberate mile by mile or 3 miles by 3 miles, because it is difficult for him to liberate inch by inch.

President Numayri said: We are determined to defend ourselves, and we shall try so that we won't have to dispatch offensive forces to Al-Qadhdhafi's country — although he is one of our neighbors — or inside the camps and training sites he uses in Ethiopia. We don't want to attack, because it is our principle not to do that. However, we shall defend ourselves to the end.

Responding to a question about Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's statements that he will liberate Egypt after Sudan; reports that there is a reconciliation mediation with Libya; and that Al-Qadhdhafi is organizing a march from Libya to Egypt, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said: Actually, I did not want to comment on the Libyan leader's statements, but since I have been asked to comment, I will do so in the best way possible.

The president said: As far as the mediation is concerned, Al-Qadhdhafi has sent many [envoys] to me since I assumed power. But they never honored any of their promises. However, we suffer no complexes in terms of our reconciliation with anyone, although this should be based on a framework that doesn't harm the people's interests and guarantees the state's sovereignty and dignity.

His excellency added: We absolutely have no problems if reconciliation occurs. If he wants to reconcile with us, he is most welcome. But as for the liberation, let them go and liberate Lebanon. We have no one to go and liberate Lebanon. Anyone is welcomed to liberate Lebanon. However, I don't want to go into detail on the subject of liberation because there is much talk about it. I hear it, but never reply. Actually, I would never have replied to these statements had it not been for your questions.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak added: As for the procession, it is welcome, especially if the president of Libya came at its head. I shall give him a big welcome. But I am prepared to send him a procession of 2 or 3 million people from here to reach Tobruk or Bangazi. We will send him the population of a Cairo quarter such as Shubra, which numbers 3 million, and will send him 3 or 4 million from another quarter. We shall organize a significant procession and go to Libya. We are also prepared for reconciliation in this framework.

His excellency said: Our procession will be larger. Anyhow, we welcome the Libyan procession, and our welcome will be greater if it is headed by the president of Libya.

Asked about Egypt's anticipated role in view of the escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and Iran's attempts to penetrate the Iraqi borders, President Mubarak said the entire area must assume a role. Should Egypt assume a role alone every time a war breaks out in the area? He added: We, on our part, condemn the principle of war and support the peaceful solution of problems, because it has been proven that wars anywhere in the world do not solve problems completely. Take for example the Vietnam war. The United States sat down with the Vietnamese in Paris. They could not reach an agreement until they sat down together.

His excellency said: We call on the brothers in Iran and Iraq to abandon war, to avoid draining their resources to kill each other, and to sit together at the negotiating table. We urge Iran to listen to this, especially since Iraq is prepared to negotiate. What is required is for Iran to respond and sit down at the negotiating table and end the bloodletting and save the country's resources. These resources could be used to raise the standard of living instead of being used for destruction, ruin, and bloodshed.

Asked about the meeting scheduled to take place in Nairobi between the Sudanese and Ethiopian foreign ministers, President Numayri said: Regrettably, this meeting has been put off, and I do not know the details. Ethiopia sent a message through our envoy at the embassy there saying that it cannot attend the meeting at the scheduled time and place at this time.

He added: I instructed my foreign minister to study with them the reasons and remove them so they can meet, because it is our principle to solve problems through dialogue. We don't want to enter into military confrontations which are not to our benefit or to Ethiopia's benefit.

Asked about the role of Egyptian diplomacy during the period remaining before the next OAU summit, President Mubarak answered: In fact, Egypt and Sudan are working together in this respect. We are working together so that when the OAU meets, no schisms will appear. Mubarak added that that's why Egypt and Sudan are always in touch, particularly over the Western Sahara issue.

Mubarak said there are also contacts with His Majesty King Hassan II and withe OAU chairman, Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. Hopefully, Mubarak added, we will reach a solution before the coming meeting in Conakry.

President Numayri answered a question on the rebels' response to his call for abandoning arms and returning to the spirit of nationalism, saying: Thus far, I think the response has been positive. Many of those regarding themselves as leaders inside and outside [the south of Sudan] have contacted each other and welcome this plea and decision.

Numayri added: They promised to make various contacts with the armed men and assure them that they will be safe in keeping with my promise. This whole process takes time, because those who launch subversive operations live in forests and jungles, away from areas where they can be contacted. That's why we expect it to take longer before results can be achieved.

In the meantime, Numayri said, the Sudanese forces are assuming their role of protecting the citizens and state institutions everywhere from subversion. I think the saboteurs' inactivity following my speech is probably a result of the plea I made.

Ends Aswan Visit, Departs

NC111600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1547 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Aswan, 11 March (MENA) — Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri this afternoon left Aswan on his way to Khartoum following a few hours' visit to Aswan, during which he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

President Mubarak saw President Numayri off at Aswan Airport. He was also seen off by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Abu Bakr 'Uthman, Higher Integration Council secretary general; 'Abd as-Sattar Amin, Higher Integration Council assistant secretary general; and Aswan Governor Shawqi Al-Mutayni.

Mubarak Returns to Cairo

NC111648 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1629 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo at 1700 today from Aswan following his meeting with Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

KUNA: Al-Baz Makes 'Secret Visit' to Syria

LD091056 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1003 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, 9 Mar (KUNA) — Arab sources here said today that the Egyptian president's adviser, 'Usamah al-Baz, made a secret visit to Damascus within the framework of contacts between the two countries. These sources stated yesterday that in light of these contacts, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion of the 8 March 1963 Revolution. The sources said that following civil and military contacts between the two countries, it was decided the dialogue between them should continue.

'Ali, Ghali Separately Meet Israeli Minister

NC111641 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met [in separate meetings] with Gid'on Pat, Israel's minister of industry and commerce. During the two meetings, Egypt made its stand clear regarding the negative effects which Israel's invasion of Lebanon has on the quest for an overall and just peace in the Middle East.

Egypt also underlined the need for a speedy Israeli pullout from Lebanon so as to bring about a change in the present atmosphere. In addition, Egypt called on Israel to display sufficient flexibility to encourage the parties concerned to join the Middle East peace process. Egypt reiterated the need to include Jordan and the representatives of the Palestinian people in the peace process, and the importance of the PLO in that process.

Egypt also called on Israel to take some specific steps to broaden the Middle East peace process, foremost of which is to halt its arbitrary measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to discontinue its expansionary settlement policies — steps needed to create confidence among the Palestinian people.

The subjects discussed also included the relationship between Egypt and Israel.

Greek President Arrives in Cairo 12 Mar

NC121058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1018 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) — Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis arrived in Cairo this morning on a 5-day official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the visit, he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on Middle East developments, especially the Palestinian issue and Lebanese problem, as well as international topics and ways of strengthening bilateral relations.

The Greek president was received upon his arrival at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Scientific Research Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi; as well several ministers and commanders of the various Armed Forces' branches.

The Greek president was received [not further clarified as to where] by members of the honorary mission that will escort him during his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. The mission is headed by Minister of State for Emigration and Egyptian Abroad Affairs Albert Barsum Salamah, and includes Egyptian Ambassador to Greece 'Ali Bura'i, Presidential Aide-de-Camp Captain Ra'fat Mahmud Husayb, and Presidential Secretary Ashraf 'Umar Bakir.

Romania's Ceausescu Sends Message to Mubarak

NC121059 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received a message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu dealing with bilateral relations.

Vasile Pungan, Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, met President Mubarak this morning and handed him the message. Pungan arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday to attend the opening of Cairo's International Fair. His meeting with Mubarak was attended by Ion Iosefide, Romania's ambassador to Cairo.

Shindi Confers With Visiting Romanian Minister

NC112034 Cairo MENA in English 2020 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 11 (MENA) — Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Dr Wajih Shindi conferred tonight with the Romanian minister of foreign trade on means of promoting economic cooperation as well as the possibility of increasing the volume of trade exchange between Egypt and Romania.

The meeting also dealt with the possibility of increasing Egypt's exports to Romania, and the possibility of activating Romanian investments in Egypt through setting up joint ventures between the two countries.

The Romanian minister had arrived here yesterday leading a delegation to attend the inauguration of the Cairo International Fair.

Belgian Economy Minister Eyskens Arrives

NC102140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA) — Mark Eyskens, Belgian minister of economic affairs, arrived in Cairo tonight on a 9-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, Eyskens will conduct talks with Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, on bilateral cooperation in various economic areas. They will outline the general policies leading to such cooperation.

The Belgian minister will also meet Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of international investment and cooperation, and Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation.

Eyskens was welcomed at the airport by Husayn 'Abduh Husayn, first undersecretary at the Ministry of Economy.

Tanzanian Minister of Trade Arrives in Cairo

NC101958 Cairo MENA in English 1945 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 10 (MENA) — Tanzanian Minister of Trade Mustafa Nyanganyi arrived here tonight on a 3-day visit to attend the inauguration of Tanzania's pavilion at the Cairo International Fair.

The Tanzanian minister will confer with Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id on means to activate commercial exchange and to remove obstacles impeding development of commercial exchange between the two countries.

Defense Minister Returns From U.K. Visit

NC112133 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2118 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, returned to Cairo this evening following an official 9-day visit to Britain.

During the visit, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah held talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the defense and foreign secretaries over the development of the war industries and the joint cooperation between the two countries in the field of military production.

QNA: Al-Baz Interviewed on Iraqi-Iranian War

GF111125 Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Mar — Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's adviser for political affairs, has said it is Iraq's right to ask the Arab nation to implement the resolutions adopted at the Fes Arab summit conference on the Iraqi-Iranian war.

In an interview published in today's issue of the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN*, Al-Baz said Egypt supports the call for an Arab meeting to discuss the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said it is important that there should be a commitment to a unified Arab stand on this matter. Al-Baz said Egypt will not hesitate to attend any meeting in which issues of such importance are discussed, but the question is the framework in which such a meeting is held. However, he added, Egypt doesn't wish to impose itself on any meeting.

Asked about the possibility of President Mubarak visiting Iraq and Jordan, Al-Baz said there is no agreement on a fixed date for such a visit.

Al-Baz said Iraq has not asked Egypt to send troops to participate in the war with Iran. He added: "Iraq furnishes us with reports on the progress of the war in which it is engaged and is fighting in defense of the Arab nation."

The Egyptian official asserted that Iraq's position is reassuring. He expressed hope that the Iraqi-Iranian war will end as soon as possible.

Abu Ghazalah on Defense, Other Issues

NC100707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA) — Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has warned that an expansion of the Iraqi-Iranian war is possible, and that such a situation would prompt the large states to interfere, particularly if the continued flow of oil supplies would be affected.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah affirmed that Egypt's security is built on a basis of accurate calculations about what is taking place around it. He said security potentials will be developed on the basis of these calculations in a manner consistent with changes in the situation.

In an interview to be pubished in *AL-AKHBAR*'s Saturday edition, Abu Ghazalah affirmed that contrary to what some believe, peace does not mean slackness. He warned there will be no peace without a deterrent force to protect it. Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah also warned that Sudan is Egypt's southern strategic front and affirmed that any direct threat to Sudan is a threat to Egyptian national security.

Abu Ghazalah explained that continued overt Libyan interference in Chad, and its dangerous military escalation in Chad or Sudan, will affect the stability of the area's regimes and give the major states the opportunity to interfere in them.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah denied that there are concentrations of Egyptian forces on the Libyan borders. He said the presence of Egyptian forces on the border area falls within the framework of the strategic deployment of these forces to safeguard its borders without any aggressive aims or intentions. He emphasized that there are no aggressive intentions against Libya.

Regarding Egypt's armament policy, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said Egypt's military defense policy is based on several factors, including the constant followup of the intentions and military potentials of the region's states, and the diversification of weapon suppliers in accordance with defense requirements.

He affirmed that the reality in the area, and dealing with this reality, require that we constantly maintain a suitable defense capability that could be developed to remain on a par with the constant quantitative and qualitative growth of the military capabilities surrounding Egypt.

He said the Egyptian Armed Forces are in the process of replacing old weapons with more developed and better quality ones. The United States is considered one of the most important sources for obtaining weapons, especially in light of the financial assistance it provides in this connection. Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the United States has provided Egypt with the improved Hawk missiles, which are among the most modern air defense systems in the world. He expressed the hope that the United States will increase its military aid to Egypt and offer it better credit terms.

In concluding his statement, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah expressed the belief that the Camp David agreement between Egypt and Israel is a model of a solution that can be emulated. He affirmed that if Israel wants to reach such solutions with neighboring countries, it must realize that there are security demands by these states in addition to its own. Israel must encourage the moderate states to pursue with it a course leading to a peaceful solution so that problems would be solved and tensions removed.

New Iranian Offensive Repulsed 12 March

JN120958 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0937 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

At 2030 yesterday, 11 March, the spiteful Iranian enemy attacked our capable forward units in the area east of Basra. The soldiers of leader Saddam Husayn confronted them. A fierce battle raged and continued until 0500 today. During this battle, our brave units repulsed the enemy offensive and completely destroyed the aggressor forces, except for those who fled for their lives.

During this battle, the enemy sustained a large number of dead and wounded. These included a number of the commanders of the charlatan Khomeyni guards, whom the enemy tried desperately to evacuate; but its attempts were doomed to failure and disappointment. They were left in the battlefield with the rest of the enemy's dead.

God is great and victory is always the lot of the Iraqis, holders of justice and principles. Death and disappointment will be the lot of the clique of grudge and aggression ruling in Iran.

[Dated] 12 March 1984

Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques

No 1,399 — 9 March

JN091804 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,399 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 9 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces, which stand with firmness, strength, and courage against the Iranian expansionist ambitions, are affirming their great ability and decisive superiority over the invading aggressors, and their determination to inflict on the forces of the rancorous Khomeyniite clique bitter defeats and massive losses.

The results of the war operations for last night and today are as follows:

1. One of our brave forward units attacked enemy positions opposite Iraqi positions east of Basra. Our unit clashed with an enemy force in a battle during which all kinds of weapons were used. Our unit killed more than 40 enemy men, wounded others, and destroyed a quantity of weapons and equipment.

In other areas of the same sector, our brave forward units pounded a number of enemy groups that attempted to advance toward our forward positions. Our units forced the enemy groups to retreat and flee after inflicting on them a number of casualties and destroying a quantity of weapons. In areas opposite other Iraqi forward units, the enemy lost 206 dead; a great number of wounded; a number of men captured; and 2 tanks, 4 guns of various calibers, 1 vehicle, 5 hardware stockpiles, and a number of personnel assembly positions and weapon emplacements destroyed.

2. Our capable Air Force planes today carried out violent raids and dealt strong blows to the enemy positions and units opposite our forward units east of Basra. Our planes destroyed a great number of enemy personnel assembly positions and various enemy vehicles and equipment. Our planes created a state of panic and fear among the collapsing enemy ranks and the remnants of its forces. All of our fighter planes returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God. Our fighter planes today carried out 129 combat missions.

3. Our daring helicopter gunships today carried out brave attacks and successful raids against enemy units and troop assembly points in the areas opposite our units' positions east of Basra and east of Tigris. Our helicopters scored very effective, direct hits and inflicted on the enemy massive losses in men and weapons. Known enemy losses amounted to the destruction of 32 personnel assembly points, 14 boats, and 4 antiaircraft positions.

Our Army helicopter gunships engaged two enemy helicopters that were coming from inside Iran and heading toward Huwayzah marshes. Our helicopters surprised the two enemy helicopters and dealt them violent blows. The two planes were shot down at 1115 and 1400 respectively. They were seen falling in the marshes in flames. They are of the Chinook type.

All our daring planes returned safely and successfully to base, praise be to God. Our helicopters today carried out 88 combat missions.

4. One of our forward units pounded an enemy patrol that attempted to advance toward our forward positions in the northern sector of the front. A number of the patrol members were either killed or wounded. The rest of the patrol members fled.

In another area of the same sector, one observation post and one machine gun were destroyed; those manning them were killed.

5. Two were killed and one gun destroyed in the central sector of the front.

6. One personnel assembly position in the Maysan sector was destroyed and those inside were either killed or wounded.

7. The criminal Khomeyniite regime used heavy artillery last night and today to shell Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Zurbatiyah and their environs. Two civilians were killed, 13 others wounded, 8 houses destroyed, and 1 civilian car damaged in Basra; 1 civilian was killed, and 4 houses were destroyed in Mandali; 2 houses were destroyed and a number of gardens were damaged in Khanqin; and a number of houses were damaged in Zurbatiyah.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 March 1984

No 1,400 — 10 March

JN101741 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,400 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 10 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With an escalating fighting spirit and with a strong, unshakable determination, the forces of Saddam's glorious Al-Qadisiyah are continuing their valiant and heroic fight against the forces of the expansionist Khomeyniite regime, inflicting further losses in men and equipment. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our brave units are continuing their activities against the enemy units opposite our forward positions east of Basra. Our forces strongly pounded these units with various weapons, inflicting a large number of dead or wounded and destroying quantitites of the enemy's various weapons and equipment. Elsewhere in the same sector, 44 enemy soldiers were killed, several others wounded, a number of soldiers captured, and 1 armored personnel carrier, 2 vehicles carrying personnel, 2 106-mm guns, and 2 infantry positions destroyed with all their occupants killed.

2. Our capable fighter planes today continued their daring and successful attacks on the enemy units and defeated remnants opposite our forward units' positions east of Basra, as well as on important military targets deep inside the enemy territory, scoring accurate and effective hits. Quantities of the enemy weapons and equipment were destroyed and a large number of personnel were either killed or wounded during these attacks. All our fighter planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our daring helicopter gunships today attacked the enemy positions, units, and troop concentrations in the two sectors east of Basra and east of the Tigris, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting massive losses in men, weapons, and equipment. The known enemy losses amounted to 29 troop assembly points; 14 boats, some of which were loaded with personnel and hardware; 2 vehicles; and 2 observation posts destroyed. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. One of our forward units opened fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing 16, wounding others, and destroying 1 infantry position, killing its occupants.

5. One of our forward units opened fire with various weapons on the enemy positions opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing nine and destroying one gun and one infantry position.

6. One gun was destroyed and its crew killed in the Maysan sector.

7. Yesterday evening and today, the criminal Khomeyniites continued their shelling of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, and their environs with heavy artillery. The savage enemy shelling resulted in the wounding of three civilians, the destruction of one house, and the damage to one house and one elementary school in Basra; and the damage to several orchards and civilian establsihments in Khanaqin and Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 March 1984

No 1,401 — 11 March

JN111736 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,401 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 11 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In their defense of great Iraq and their confrontation of the aggressor invaders, our valiant Armed Forces reaffirm that they will remain the shield of the Arab nation and the homeland's impregnable barrier. The results ofthe activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our valiant forces continued to use all types of weapons to fiercely pound the enemy units and retreating remnants in the area opposite their positions east of Basra, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Many were killed or wounded, quantities of weapons and military hardware were destroyed.

2. Our able helicopter gunships carried out fierce raids today on enemy units and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our intrepid units' positions east of Basra, killing a large number of the enemy and destroying a large quantity of enemy weapons and military hardware. All of our helicopter gunships returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

3. One of our forward units used all types of weapons to pound an enemy troop concentration which tried to approach its forward positions in the Maysan operational sector. The enemy was forced to flee after many were killed or wounded. Two vehicles and two positions were also destroyed in another area of the same sector.

4. The criminal Khomeynitte regime shelled Basra, Khanaqin, Ash-Shihabi, and Mandali and its suburbs with heavy artillery yesterday evening and today. As a result of the barbaric enemy shelling, 10 civilians were wounded and 4 houses were damaged in Basra; 1 civilian was martyred, 7 others were wounded, and 3 houses and 3 civilian cars were damaged in Khanaqin; 2 houses were destroyed in Ash-Shihabi; and several civilian installations were damaged in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 March 1984.

III Army Corps Commander on War Activities

GF101212 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Mar (WAKH) — Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, commander of the Iraqi III Corps, has affirmed that Iraq is completely prepared for the expected Iranian attack against the Iraqi territories.

In a statement published today by the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'*, the Iraqi commander said: "We notice that Iran's reinforcements are continuing and itsobjectives remain; this is not an unexpected matter and we are monitoring all movements."

He stressed that if Iran does that, the Iraqi forces will fight the Iranian forces with full spirit and desire and with sternness which will exceed what took place in the recent battles.

Asked about the Iraqi measures to prevent the Iranian artillery from shelling Basra, the commander of the Iraqi III Corps said that the Iranian forces' artillery which shells Basra daily and randomly is not sizable enough to be accounted for. He noted the Iraqi reply to shelling Basra and the other Iraqi cities and announced that until this moment the Iraqi forces have not fired a single shell against any of the near or distant Iranian cities indicating that the Iranians know well the range of the Iraqi heavy artillery and long range missiles.

Ramadan: Basra, Maysan Battles 'Massacre'

JN101257 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and commander in chief of the Popular Army, has stated that the recent Iranian attacks east of Basra and east of Maysan in which great numbers of the enemy's collapsing troops took part have been transformed into a massacre for the Iranians thanks to the Iraqis' firmness and courage.

During a visit to the command of the heroic II Army Corps, Ramadan said that the enemy sustained massive losses in men and equipment, and could not achieve any of its expansionist aims. During his visit to the II Army Corps sector, Ramadan met with the commander of the Al-Yarmuk Forces.

Baghdad TV Comments on Chemical Weapons Charges

GF101510 Baghdad Television Service in Persian 1000 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Announcer-read commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear viewers: O ye the Iranians, caught in the clutches of the akhondi [derogatory Persian term for mullahs] regime. Now the akhond rulers have raised a hue and cry about the use of chemical weapons in the fateful akhondi attack and have so exaggerated the incident, assuming there had been such an incident, that it is obvious it was a made-up occurrence.

One may ask why the akhondi regime is doing so much probing in respect to the so-called chemical weapons. The reason is quite clear. They are doing all this to cover their so-called fateful attack.

It is 6 months now that the akhondi ruling Iran have used every trick of the trade to collect people, both enticements and threats. In short, they have used every possible way to gather people in order to launch a fateful attack.

O ye people of Iran. In the name of God, have you forgotten all those victories, accounts of which were given to you by the Friday imams. It was about 2 Fridays ago that Khamene'i claimed to have done absolutions in the waters of the Tigris and said that he would say his prayers in Karabala' with the same absolution. Did he not say so, did you not hear this yourself? Now if these deceitful akhondi do not divert the attention of the people from shameful defeats, what else would the Friday imams say on Friday? Would any one of you dare to ask: Your Excellency Khamene'i, Your Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, what happened to your absolutions in the waters of the Tigris and your prayers in Karbala', and the occupation of the Basra-Baghdad Highway, of the Al-Qurnah Bridge, and of the city of Al-Qurnah? What else could they say in answer if they do not pose the issue of chemical weapons? They have sent 50,000 Iranians to be killed in the war; another 100,000 have been wounded and incapacitated and are in Iranian hospitals. They do not talk about defeats and the 50,000 killed, but they talk about those 14 individuals who supposedly are suffering from burns.

Current Battles To Be 'Decisive, Final'

JN110720 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — *ATH-THAWRAH* said in an editorial today that Iraq is determined to make the current battles with Iran decisive and final. The paper added: We are facing the Iranian rulers' intransigence and their insistence on occupying our country, harming our people, and attacking our interests and economic targets. We have no choice, therefore, but to continue our battle in defense of ourselves and our people. The paper stressed Iraq's determination to foil all the Iranian schemes and evil illusions. The paper pointed out that on 24 February, the Iranian president expressed his ambitions and dreams of expansion and of dominating Iraq's land, resources, and wealth. The Iranian president revealed the intentions of his suspect regime to occupy Iraq and exploit the Iraqi oil wells in the marshes.

In conclusion, *ATH-THAWRAH* affirmed that the Iraqis are now more capable and determined to decide the battle in their favor and inflict a final defeat on the expansionist aggressors.

Commander Interviewed on Use of Chemical Weapons

GF111846 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Mar 84 p 29

[Report on interview with Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, commander of the III Corps, with *AL-ANBA'* correspondent 'Adnan al-Rashid in Basra — date not given]

[Excerpts] Regarding the question on whether the Iraqi Army possessed chemical weapons and the timing of their use in defending the city of Basra, Staff Major General Rashid said: We do not possess any chemical weapons and thus the claims by the Iranian enemy that we have used them against it in its last attack are unfounded and can be corroborated by the facts. Even if we possessed such weapons, they would be difficult to use. The fighting here in the central sector and in all the sectors is between groups located very close. If we were to use chemical weapons, these weapons would harm our forces as well. In any event, I wish we did possess some special weapons, whether chemical or another type, with which I could exterminate this bunch of harmful insects. If I could do this, then I will be carrying out a good deed for God and for all of mankind. However, we have not used any banned weapons and we have not violated the Geneva convention. The world countries should immediately intervene in order to put an end to this bloodshed.

Regarding the possibility that Iraq would launch an offensive as a preemptive measure, Staff Major General Rashid refused to make any statement in this regard. However, he said: The accounts of our leaders are known and their results are reliable. Iraq is making efforts on all sides in order to end the war and the battlefield can be considered one of these efforts. Launching an attack on Iranian territory is not difficult, on the contrary, the results are guaranteed. Even areas deep inside Iranian territory are not beyond the reach of our fire and domination.

Commander on Majnun Battles

JN111906 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Fierce battles continued today in the Majnun Islands, which the Iranian forces occupied in the first days of the recent Iranian offensive. This was stated by Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid, commander of the Iraqi III Army Corps, who told a group of French journalists that Iraqi tanks took up positions on several points on the Majnun Islands 4 days ago. He added that very fierce battles are raging, battles which have transformed the Iranians, their equipment, and even the soil under them, into dust because of the intensity of the Iraqi shelling.

Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid added that the Iranians have not advanced 1 inch since the failure of their latest offensive. He said: They are hesitating to attack our positions, where we are waiting to wipe them out.

The Iraqi military commander said he believes that the Iranian presence on Majnun is worthless because the Iranian offensive will be completely wiped out. He explained by saying: The Iraqi forces are exploiting this presence in order to achieve their objectives of inflicting the heaviest losses in life and equipment on the Iranian forces in a more effective manner that what took place during last month's battles in which tens of thousand of Iranians were killed.

On the other hand, Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid denied Tehran's claim that the Iranian forces repulsed two Iraqi counteroffensives yesterday. He challenged the Iranian authorities to produce the body of one Iraqi soldier in order to substantiate this claim.

On reports that Iraq has used chemical weapons, Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid said: I have not instructed my forces to use them, even though my task as a military man is to use all means to wipe out the enemy and protect our soil. He added: However, my supreme command has not given me permission to use any weapons other than the conventional ones.

UN Envoy's Message to Perez de Cuellar

JN111515 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1210 GMT 11 Mar 84

["Text" of message Iraq' permanent representative to the United Nations sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar —date not specified]

[Text] Your Excellency:

In accordance with my government's instructions, I would like to refer to the letters directed to Your Excellency by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. In the letter dated 18 February 1984 — document No 19254 — my country's foreign minister reiterated Iraq's proposal to dispatch a fact-finding committee on the treatment of POW's in Iran and Iraq as a result of the dangerous dimensions created following the distribution of the International Red Cross memorandum last 10 February.

In the letter dated 28 February — document No M/19362 — my country's foreign minister informed you of the large-scale attack the Iranian regime's forces launched against Iraq during the night of 22-23 February 1984 in order to penetrate Iraq's international border and occupy Iraqi villages and cities.

In the letter dated 28 February 1984 — document No M/19400 — my country's foreign minister informed you of a recorded admission by 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Iranian regime and chairman of the Higher Defense Council, on the occupation of Iraqi territories and on Iran's insistence on continuing the aggressive war against Iraq in order to achieve the Iranian regime's expansionist ambitions in Iraq and obtain Iraq's natural resources.

Both Your Excellency and the UN members are fully aware that Iraq, as a UN member, has accepted all of the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council regarding the Iraqi- Iranian dispute, including UN Resolution No 27/2 adopted on 22 October 1983 to this effect. Iraq has always announced its readiness to settle the dispute. On the other hand, Iran's stands rejected all of these resolutions and provisions. Iran frankly announced its intention to continue the aggressive war against Iraq in order to achieve regional and economic ambitions that harm the United Nations and its organs, and violate the UN Charter.

If the provisions of the UN Charter and the member- countries' collective responsibility in accordance with these provisions become meaningless, the human and moral considerations as well as the UN prestige must remain alive in our minds. The silence toward these firm facts which are known to the international community does not just surprise us; it is contrary to these considerations. At the same time, this situation will not help the international organization to serve peace.

While Iraq will not spare any efforts on the various levels and with all means available in order to defend its legitimate rights to sovereignty, independence, security, and prosperity without any foreign interference, and to seek the means to establish a just and honorable peace, our country's government earnestly calls on Your Excellency to declare your frank and definite position toward the Iranian regime's continuing aggression against Iraq, its rejection of the commitments imposed on it by the UN Charter, and its violation of the provisions of international law regarding the treatment of POW's.

I would like Your Excellency to distribute this letter as a UN Security Council document.

Accept our greatest regards.

Memorandum to Red Cross on Chemical Weapons

JN111550 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — Iraq has vehemently protested claims an International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] team made that Iraq has used chemical weapons in its defensive war against the aggressor forces of the Iranian regime.

In a memorandum it sent to the team today, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry explained that the stand the team proclaimed in an official statement is political, biased, and in contradiction to the role with which the Geneva conventions have entrusted it. The Foreign Ministry stressed that Iraq is ready to cooperate with any neutral party in order to investigate these allegations. The following is the text of the memorandum:

The Foreign Ministry would like to clarify the following points:

1. The ICRC statement says that a medical team visited 160 soldiers. The use of the word soldiers makes it necessary to confirm that they are really soldiers. Such confirmation is not possible, as it may come from other victims of the Iranian regime such as from the Iranian opposition, Iraqi prisoners, or others who have been affected by these materials in places other than at the Iraqi war fronts.

One cannot rely on identity cards or on claims, as it is well known that the Iranian authorities are experts not only in forging identity cards but also in falsifying all facts.

2. The statement points out that the toxic material was used in the battlefield. Here also one wonders how the ICRC was able to ascertain that they were used in the battlefield. Is it the ICRC's responsibility to depend on the Iranian side's allegations in this respect and to issue such a statement?

3. The ICRC's response to the Iranian authorities request that these people be examined is strange. It raises doubts; especially since these authorities had previously banned the ICRC from carrying out its duties toward our prisoners in accordance with the Geneva conventions and had prepared rancorous elements to attack ICRC representatives.

Therefore, the ICRC officials cannot claim that they are implementing the related international conventions, because the implementation of these conventions is an indivisible whole and cannot be carried out on a selective basis or be subjected to the desires and transient interests of a state. The ICRC's acceptance of this selective Iranian stand violates the letter and spirit of the 1949 Geneva conventions.

From this premise, the Foreign Ministry vehemently protests against the ICRC stand, and views it as a political and biased stand which fully contradicts the role that has been entrusted to it by the Geneva conventions.

Iraq had previously reiterated its commitment to international agreements based on the principled stand it has been adopting in its foreign policy. Iraqi officials have stressed that chemical weapons were not used in the dispute with Iran. To prove this to world public opinion, Iraq is ready to cooperate with any neutral party so that these allegations can be investigated.

Irrigation Minister Meets Turkey's Pakdemirli

TA091531 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1505 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (AA) — Under Secretary for Foreign Trade and the Treasury of the Turkish Prime Ministry Ekrem Pakdemirli, who is in Baghdad this week, met with Iraq's Minister of Irrigation Mahmud 'Abdallah.

Pakdemirli offered Turkish technical aid in land improvement projects and the services of experienced Turkish engineering firms for irrigation and drainage projects in Iraq, sources said.

Prof. Pakdemirli also discussed banking and business transactions between the two countries.

Trade Protocol Signed

TA101600 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1530 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (AA) — Turkish exports to Iraq will amount to 500 million dollars this year, Under Secretary of Treasury and Foreign Trade of the Turkish Prime Ministry Ekrem Pakdemirli said here Saturday. Iraq will buy Turkish products, as of May 10, under a new system which calls for cash payments for 50 percent of the sum. Currently, Iraq gets 75 percent of these on credit. Under the new protocol Pakdemirli and Iraqi Trade Ministry Under Secretary Al-Hashimi signed Saturday, the national airlines of the two countries will increase the number of weekly flights to three reciprocally. Two Iraqi delegations will visit the Izmir International Fair to determine the Turkish products to be purchased.

Turkish Delegation Departs

JN101239 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA) — Ekrem Pakdemirli, under secretary for foreign trade and treasury of the Turkish Prime Ministry and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today at the end of a visit to Iraqi that lasted several days. During the visit, the Turkish delegation held a series of meetings with Iraqi officials in various ministries. They discussed ways of promoting cooperation between Iraq and Turkey in the economic and trade spheres. The two countries signed joint minutes for expanding trade exchange.

Hungarian Interior Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN111920 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — Hungarian Minister of Interior Dr Istvan Horvath arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Hungarian minister said that during the visit he will hold talks with Iraqi Interior Minister Sa'dun Shakir on ways to promote bilateral relations.

ICP Members Disciplined for European Embassy Contacts

WA121613 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
No 210 18-24 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] *AL-MAJALLAH* has learned from Iraqi sources that 23 members of the leadership of organizations and establishments in the Iraqi CommunistParty, which is opposed to the Baghdad regime, have been disciplined. It was disclosed that they had been in contact with Iraqi embassies in Europe during which they revealed the names and activities of party members in exchange for money. The Iraqi Government is said to be contacting certain wings of the Communist Party in an effort to recruit them for a coalition which may soon develop into a government of national unity.

Further Reportage on Visit of PRC President

9 March Talks

JN091824 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — A session of official talks between the Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the PRC side led by His Excellency PRC President Li Xiannian was held this morning at the Royal Hashemite Court. The session lasted 3 and 1/2 hours.

At the beginning of the talks, his majesty welcomed the visit of his excellency the PRC president to Jordan considering it continuation of the friendly talks held by his majesty with the PRC leaders during his visit to the PRC in September 1983. His majesty also considered the talks an indication of the deepening friendship between the Jordanian and Chinese people, and a strengthening of understanding and cooperation in the different political, economic, trade, and cultural fields between the two countries.

The king reviewed the nature of the successive challenges that face the Middle East and the dangers that result from these challenges which not only effect the Middle East but also effect international peace and security. His majesty stressed that the main reason for the continued tension and the absence of security and stability in the Middle East was that the Palestinian question was not settled in a just, permanent, and honorable way which would guarantee the end of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories occupied in 1967, and the right of the Palestinian people to determine their fate and future on their national soil.

His majesty also stressed that the principles of the Jordanian move toward peace are based on UN Security Council Resolution 242 that confirms the impermissibility of acquiring land by war. On this basis, Jordan calls for complete withdrawal in exchange for peace.

The king reviewed with his excellency the PRC president the positive results that were reached in the Jordanian talks with the PLO that aimed to save the Palestinian land, and liberate its inhabitants and legitimate owners from the chains of occupation. His majesty asserted that the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and joint action is the most important element in achieving a comprehensive peace in the region. The king pointed out the importance of intensifying Arab and international efforts to actively participate in promoting the march of peace.

His majesty explained the reverberations of the Lebanese crisis and the disunity caused by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The king reviewed the Jordanian position on this crisis which is based on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, the support for Lebanon's unity, land, and people, and to give Lebanon a chance to determine its fate without any outside pressure.

His majesty also explained the dangers resulting from the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Iranian regime's indulgence in its continued aggression on Iraqi soil. The king praised the PRC's position in supporting and standing by just Arab causes, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and its stand by the countries of the Third World and the Nonaligned Movement.

The viewpoints of the Jordanian and PRC sides were identical on the international issues dealt with during the talks.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat; Chief of the Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Staff Lieutenanat General as-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; Industry, Trade, and Tourism Minister Jawad al-'Anani; Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah; and Jordan's ambassador in the PRC Kamal al-Hamud.

On the PRC side, the talks were attended by Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Gong Dafei, Vice-Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Tuobin, Vice-Minister of Public Security Tao Siju, and PRC ambassador in Jordan Huang Shixie.

Talks Continue 9 March

JN092114 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — The Jordanian and PRC sides continued their talks at a meeting held at the Prime Ministry this evening. The Jordanian side was led by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, while the PRC side was led by Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun. The two sides agreed to increase economic cooperation and trade and to develop relations between the two countries in all fields, especially in the export of potash, phosphates, and chemical fertilizers to China. Cultural cooperation between the two countries and the means of developing and furthering this cooperation were also discussed. The two sides reviewed the steps that have already been taken in the field of civil aviation and the regulation of flights between the two countries.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad al-'Anani, Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah, Director of the National Planning Council 'Umar 'Abdallah, Deputy Chief of Staff for planning Staff Major General Taysir Z'arur, Jordan's ambassador to the PRC Kamal al-Hamud, and Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Muhammad al-Hurani. On the PRC side, the talks were attended by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Gong Dafei, Vice-Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Tuobin, Vice-Minister of Public Security Tao Siju, and PRC ambassador to Jordan Huang Shixie.

Li Xiannian Visits Soldier's Memorial

JN091331 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — His Excellency PRC President Li Xiannian, his wife Lin Jiamei, and the accompanying delegation visited the unknown soldier's memorial this morning. Upon arriving at the unknown soldier's memorial, the PRC president was received by Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; the chief of staff; the Armed Forces' general inspector; and a number of ranking officers in the general command. An Army band played the two countries' national anthems, and an honor guard saluted his excellency.

The guest president and the delegation accompanying him toured the sections of the unknown soldier's memorial and acquainted themselves with its contents. The contents include pictures and models depicting Jordan's history since the Great Arab Revolution erupted in 1916, including the stages of development and modernization through which the Jordanian Armed Forces have passed because of the support and care of his majesty, the supreme commander.

The PRC president then watered the tree of life at the unknown soldier's memorial. Later, a band played the retreat. The PRC president then wrote in the visitors book at the unknown soldier's memorial, and the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces presented the PRC president a souvenir gift. At the end of the visit, the band played the two countries' national anthems. 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister and head of the honorary team; the PRC ambassador in Amman; and a number of senior officials accompanied his excellency.

Wife Visits Medical Center

JN091935 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Lin Jiamei, the PRC president's wife, this afternoon visited the Husayn Medical City and toured the different sections of the city, accompanied by the director of the Royal Medical Services and a number of Services officials. She was briefed on the duties of the city. She toured the rehabilitation center where she viewed the medical equipment used there. At the end of the visit, Lin Jiamei presented a gift to the officials of the city and expressed her admiration for this medical establishment, wishing the Jordanian medical authorities further progress.

PRC President at Band Performance

JN092023 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text]The Jordanian Armed Forces Brass band this evening held a night tattoo which was attended by His Majesty King Husayn, Her Majesty Queen Nur, and their great guests his excellency the PRC president and his wife as well as the accompanying delegation. The tattoo was also attended by the prime minister and defense minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the President of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the court minister, the chief chambarlain, a number of ministers, the Army chief of staff, the director of public security, and their wives. It was also attended by a number of senior civil and military officials. The band presented a fine preformance and harmonious national tunes that won the admiration of the audience.

Visits Jordan Valley

JN101727 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan accompanied the PRC president, his wife, and their accompanying delegation on a visit to the Jordan Valley this morning. His highness briefed the guest on the comprehensive Jordanian development plan that is being implemented in the Jordan Valley. He pointed out that this integrative agricultural accomplishment in the valley represents the Jordanian people's determination to prosper and become self-sufficient. His Highness also added that any credit for building this region is due to both the people and the land. He added: We have managed to bring the people and the land together through a complete plan, and by creating an independent society that depends on itself in this vital region.

His highness also pointed to the challenge that is facing Jordan in this region; namely, the population challenge that results from the Israeli practices aimed at displacing the Arab citizens from their lands and constructing settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. He also referred to the enemy's plan to set up councils for the settlements as being an Israeli concept of autonomy that will place the Arab groups under their administration and, consequently, turn the Arabs into minorities on their national soil. Mundhir Haddadin, director general of the Jordan Valley Authority, also presented an explanation of the authority's plan to develop the valley since 1959 until now.

His highness also accompanied the guest, his wife, and their delegation on a visit to plastic green houses supervised by the farmers. They heard from the farmers an explanation of the houses' production. The delegation also visited the monument of the Al-Karamah battle, and listened to an explanation of its historic importance on all levels. Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah accompanied the great guest during this visit.

King , Li Xiannian Attend Luncheon

JN102031 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and his great guest PRC President Li Xiannian and the accompanying delegation attended a luncheon given by Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed forces, in the Dead Sea area at noon today. The two leaders were briefed on the development, modernization, missions, and duties of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Attending were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, her highness Princess Tharwat, Prime Minister and Defense Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the honorary team accompanying the guest president, Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief of staff, the inspector general of the Armed forces, and a number of senior officers.

Begins 2-day Visit to Aqaba

JN111353 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Aqaba — His Majesty King Husayn, His Excellency PRC President Li Xiannian, his wife, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Aqaba on a 2-day visit. His majesty and the great guest were received at Aqaba airport by the district officer, the director of the Aqaba Authority, the mayor, and a number of civil and military officials. The PRC president, the vice-minister of foreign affairs, and the members of the visiting delegation will tomorrow visit the Jordan Fertilizer Company plant to get acquainted with the stages of fertilizer production which is considered one of Jordan's most prominent economic achievements in the south. The delegation will also visit cultural, touristic, and historical landmarks in the area.

His excellency the PRC president, his wife and the accompanying delegation this morning visited the Jordanian Armed Forces military exhibition held by the Royal Jordanian Air Force. The exhibition displays all kinds of armaments used by the Jordanian Air and Land forces. His Majesty King Husayn, Supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed forces received His Excellency the PRC president on arrival at the exhibition site. The exhibition was also attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the chief of staff, and a number of high ranking officers.

'Arafat Meets With Husayn, PRC President

'Arafat Arrival Statement

JN101033 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Amman, 10 Mar (PETRA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman this morning on a 4-day visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking Jordanian officials. 'Arafat was welcomed at the airport by Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Occupied Territories Minister Shawkat Mahmud; PLO Executive Committee members Hamid Abu Sitah, Dr Hanna Nasir, and Jamal as-Surani; Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee representative in Amman; Najib al-Ahmad, director of the office of the Palestinian Revolution Forces commander in chief; Salim Shahin, official in charge of the PLO office in Amman; the deputy commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Amman; and state and military officials.

'Arafat is accompanied by Fatah Central Committee member Kahlid al-Hasan.

In a statement to the press at the airport, 'Arafat said: I view this visit as continuation of the recent talks and as part of the agreement that was reached to map out the nature of joint action on all levels and promote joint coordination in the continual talks so that we may proceed united, with God's help. 'Arafat added: The results of the recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman were submitted to the Fatah Central Committee meeting in Tunis, which highly evaluated the results of all their aspects of these talks — both those held with His Majesty King Husayn and those held with ranking Jordanian officials. 'Arafat said: One of the objectives of this visit, as agreed with His Majesty King Husayn, is to hold talks with His Excellency PRC President Li Xiannian, whom we consider to be a friend of our Palestinian people and Arab nation.

Meets King Husayn, PRC President

JN101835 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] A while ago, His Majesty King Hgusayn received at An-Nadwah Palace PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was still in session at the time of this news bulletin.

Yasir 'Arafat visited PRC President Li Xiannian at his place of residence at the guest palace in Amman this evening. The two sides held a meeting on PRC-Palestinian relations in particular, PRC-Arab relations in general, and the dangers posed to this region which threaten world peace and security.

The PRC president stressed the continuous principled support of the PRC people for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their state on their soil under the PLO and its chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He affirmed that this stand will continue until these rights are achieved. The PRC president expressed the PRC people's feelings toward seeing the Arab nation settle its differences and confront the danger threatening its security and safety.

'Arafat thanked the PRC president for this stand and expressed the appreciation of the PLO and the Palestinian people for the PRC people and leadership on their stand that supports the Palestinian people's struggle in all fields.

Further Details of Meetings

GF111708 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar met in Jordan yesterday with King Husayn. Brother Abu 'Ammar stated that he discussed during his meeting with the Jordanian king the developments of the Palestinian cause and the situation in the occupied territories and in the Arab arena. In a statement to reporters following the meeting, he said that he also discussed with King Husayn the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war and its effects in the event of continued Iranian attacks, in addition to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian work in the Arab and international arenas.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also met yesterday with PRC President Li Xiannian, who is currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting, the developments of the Palestinian cause and ways to support the struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, were discussed. The Chinese leader invited Brother Abu 'Ammar to visit the PRC. The visit is expected to take place next month.

'Ubaydat Receives 'Arafat

JN111603 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Amman, 11 Mar (PETRA) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat received in his office at noon today PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, they discussed the means of promoting the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. They also reviewed the latest developments and events in the region, particularly in the occupied land. Attending the meeting were Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Occupied Territories Minister Shawkat Mahmud, PLO Executive Committee member Hamid Abu Sittah, and PLO Executive Committee representative in Amman 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya.

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat today also received the Romanian ambassador in Amman, who conveyed a verbal message to the prime minister from the Romanian premier.

PLO Radio Provides Further Details

JN111840 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar resumed his talks with senior Jordanian officials. A meeting was held today between the Palestinian delegation, led by Brother leader Abu 'Ammar, and the Jordanian delegation, led by Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat. More details in the following report by our radio correspondent there:

[Begin correspondent recording] A meeting was held in Amman this afternoon between the Palestinian delegation, led by Brother Abu 'Ammar, and the Jordanian delegation, led by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat. During the meeting, the two sides resumed the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue in detail. Brother Abu 'Ammar will hold a news conference before leaving for Saudi Arabia today.

Brother Abu 'Ammar met with King Husayn last night. During the meeting, which was held at An-Nadwah Palace, the two sides completed the dialogue that they held during Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Amman 10 days ago. Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed satisfaction with the talks. He said that these talks dealt with the developments of the Palestinian question, with what is taking place in the occupied territories, and with the general situation in the Arab arena, including the developments of the Iraq-Iran war and its serious consequences for the region. He added that the talks also dealt with joint action and the Palestinian-Jordanian action on the Arab and international levels in the interest of the Palestinian people's question.

'Arafat News Conference

JN112117 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his pleasure at the positive stage which the Jordanian-Palestinian talks have reached. In a news conference at his place of residence in Amman this evening, 'Arafat said: These talks continued in the past 2 days, and I held prolonged working sessions with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, and a number of senior officials. During these sessions, we completed discussions of topics related to crystallizing a joint plan of action for the unified Jordanian-Palestinian effort to confront the situation surrounding the Palestine cause, the escalating developments in both the Arab and international arenas, and the expected joint visits to be made on the Arab and international levels.

'Arafat also noted that the situation in the occupied Arab territories had an ample share in these talks, during which the two sides stressed the need to concentrate on supporting the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the face of Israel's continued terrorist practices. 'Arafat stated that the Fatah Central Committee highly evaluated the results of these talks during its recent meetings in Tunis. He said that these talks also dealt with the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war, and with Iraq's call for holding an Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Baghdad in light of the frequent Iranian offensives and its insistence on continuing the aggression against Iraqi territory.

'Arafat also said that this meetings with PRC President Li Xiannian focused on reviewing a number of issues, including the PRC's firm position in giving the Palestinian people's cause all forms of support. He added that the PRC president emphasized that position. He also said that the PRC president informed him of his support for the Arab summit resolutions concerning the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil. The PRC president also expressed the PRC leadership's satisfaction with Jordanian-Palestinian relations, especially after the successful talks that have recently be held in Amman.

'Arafat also disclosed the formation of a joint committee to discuss some issues pertaining to the Palestinian travel document issued by the Lebanese Government, and the readiness of the brothers in Jordan to extend all sorts of assistance to the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied territories.

He also said that a committee of PLO Executive Committee members has been formed, comprised of Faruq Qaddumi, Jamal as-Surani, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, and Yasir 'Arafat. This committee has been charged with holding the necessary consultations and talks with the Palestinian organizations in order to define the date and venue of the PNC session. He added: Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has expressed his country's readiness to host the new PNC session. He also added that the meetings of the joint Jordanian- Palestinian committee for bolstering the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied land is carrying out its duties in the best manner. It will intensify its fund-raising contacts so that the depletion of some resources will not affect the steadfastness of our kinfolk, who suffer from 73 types of Israeli taxes and the highest inflation in the world — from which the Israeli economy greatly suffers. This fact will directly affect the economy of the West Bank, and its citizens' daily lives.

Fatah Approves Jordan-PLO Accord

JN111203 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Mar 84 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni and Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman — The leadership of Fatah, the largest commando group within Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has approved a basic Jordan-PLO agreement to continue dialogue on formulating joint strategy in efforts to solve the Palestinian problem, a senior PLO official said Saturday. Khalid al-Hasan, a top political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, told the *JORDAN TIMES* that "The Central Committee of Fatah has approved and highly estimated the joint Palestinian-Jordanian statement (of March 1, 1984) on future cooperation and joint political moves."

The joint statement issued here last week said that both sides have agreed to continue talks on joint political moves to canvass international support for the Palestinian cause and to work towards the implementation of an Arab peace plan adopted in Morocco in September 1982.

Last year, the joint talks foundered when the Fatah Central Committee vetoed a draft agreement reached by His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat. But during last week's talks the sensitive issues of representation and peace initiatives were not raised and the emphasis was on points on which both sides have identical views.

Mr. al-Hasan, who arrived from Tunis Saturday with Mr. 'Arafat, said the Fatah Central Committee has discussed last week's talks and expressed satisfaction with their results. He said the committee meeting, held in Tunis earlier this week, focussed on organisational issues such as the preparation for a Fatah congress expected to be held in Algiers soon. He gave no date for the convening of the Fatah congress.

Palestinian sources have told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the Fatah congress will be held prior to a Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting so that the commando movement can submit a unified and clear strategy to the Council. But Mr. al-Hasan said that the timing of the Fatah congress bears no significance to the PNC session. The PNC, the Palestine parliament-in-exile, was supposed to convene last February but was delayed due to failure of reconciliation efforts between Fatah and other Palestinian factions in the PLO which opposed Mr. 'Arafat's visit to Cairo last December.

Mr. al-Hasan said that a "last" round of deliberations between Fatah and Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) will take place soon in Algiers after which final preparations for the PNC meeting will be made. Both the DFLP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), led by George Habash, have condemned Mr.'Arafat's visit to Cairo, but Mr. George Habash has called also for the removal of Mr. 'Arafat from his functions as PLO chairman. Mr. Al-Hasan said Saturday: "The door is open for the PFLP to attend the Algiers meeting" with Mr. Hawatimah. Palestinian sources here say they do not expect the PFLP to join the Algiers talks and consequently it will boycott the PNC meeting.

Mr. Al-Hasan said that the PNC will convene next April in Algiers. He confirmed reports that two Palestinian delegations, one representing the PLO Executive Committee and the other the Fatah Central Committee, will visit the Soviet Union in the near future.

"Both Mr. 'Arafat, in his capacity as PLO Executive Committee chairman, and the Fateh Central Committee have received official initations from the Soviet leadership." he said.

Mr. al-Hasan said that following his visit to Jordan Mr. 'Arafat will start a tour which includes Saudi Arabia and North Yemen. This will be the first visit by Mr. 'Arafat to Saudi Arabia since his departure, along with 4,000 of his loyalist forces from north Lebanon last December. "Mr. 'Arafat has received an official invitation from Saudi Arabia." Mr. al-Hasan said.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials told the *JORDAN TIMES* that a PLO delegation accompanying Mr. 'Arafat in this current visit to Jordan, which includes PLO Executive Committee member Jamal as-Surani and Executive Committee representative in Amman Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, is expected to meet with Jordanian officials on Sunday. The PLO officials also said that Mr. 'Arafat is expected to leave for Saudi Arabia on Monday. They added that the PLO chairman might visit Holland in response to an invitation from the Dutch Parliament prior to his return to Tunis to continue with the Fatah Central Committee meetings.

'Arafat Departs 12 March

JN121325 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this morning after a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn, PrimeMinister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, and senior Jordanian officials. He also met with His Excellency PRC President Li Xiannian during his visit. He was seen off at the airport by Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior; Minister Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories; members of the PLO Executive Committee Hamid Abu Sittah and Hanna Nasir; Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya; PLO Executive Committee representatives in Amman; Salim Shahin, acting director of the PLO office in Amman; and Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Qudsiyah, deputy commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Amman.

Foreign Minister Al-Masri Leaves for Baghdad

JN121315 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman for Baghdad this afternoon to head the Jordanian delegation tothe emergency meeting of the Arab League Council on the foreign ministerial level, to be held tomorrow at the request of Iraq. The Arab ministers will discuss the developments of the situation on the Iraqi-Iranian front. The Jordanian delegation includes Jordan's Arab League representative Nabih Nimr, Jordan's ambassador to Iraq Salih al-Kabariti, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-Fayiz, Parliamentary Delegation Leave For Tunis

JN101436 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Speaker of the House of Representatives 'Akif al-Fayiz left Amman for Tunis today at the head of a parliamentary delegation to participate in the Arab-African parliamentary dialogue scheduled to begin in Tunis tomorrow. In a statement to PETRA-JNA, Al-Fayiz said that he carries a written message to President Habib Bourguiba from His Majesty King Husayn, and a similar message to Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali from His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

Al-Fayiz also said that some Arab countries are within the African group and that the Arab Parliamentary Union should hold a dialogue with the African brothers to promote the brotherly ties between the Arab and African countries at the political and economic levels. He added that the Arab group will hold a meeting tomorrow prior to the meetings of the Arab-African dialogue in order to coordinate their positions, pointing out that the Jordanian delegation will submit some proposals to the dialogue meetings in addition to the agenda's items.

West Bank Religious Figures Said To Receive Threats

JN101525 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — Reports from the occupied West Bank have said that Muslim men of religion in Jerusalem received new threats from terrorist Jewish organizations during the last 2 days. The reports said that letters were sent which contained threats and warnings that the Muslim men of religion would be exposed to physical liquidation operations if they did not take their hands off the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Al-Jumayyil Arrives in Lausanne, Contacts

Arrives From Geneva

NC111542 Paris AFP in English 1532 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Lausanne, Switzerland, March 11 (AFP) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived here today aboard a helicopter from Geneva to take part in the second round of Lebanon's National Reconciliation talks which open tomorrow.

Mr al-Jumayyil was met earlier at Geneva's Cointrin Airport, where he arrived aboard a private plane from Nice, by Swiss State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Raymond Probst and the Lebanese Ambassador to Switzerland, Johnny 'Abdu.

In a brief statement upon his arrival in Geneva, Mr al-Jumayyil thanked Swiss officials for their help in arranging tomorrow's conference, which is aimed at settling major political differences between the Beirut government and its Moslem opposition.

He said he hoped "We will soon be able to announce good news."

Mr al-Jumayyil was to meet with Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert later today at Lausanne's Beau Rivage Hotel, site of the conference.

Saudi Minister Meets Al-Jumayyil

LD120008 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2255 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Lausanne, 11 Mar (SPA) — His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Cabinet, had a meeting this evening after his arrival in Lausanne with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil.

His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud and conveyed to President al-Jumayyil his majesty the king's greetings and wishes that the congregating brothers will be able to conclude with good results that will lead to the return of security and stability in Lebanon. He expressed to the president his majesty the king's trust in his excellency the president's wisdom and all Lebanese brothers' desire to feel the proper path that will lead to ending the Lebanese bloodshed that has continued for more than 9 years. His excellency also explained that the Lebanese alone are capable of overcoming all the difficulties, and precluding foreign interference by uniting their word, which would lead to all peoples of the world respecting Arab decisions.

The president explained that the government and people of Lebanon appreciated His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's efforts to resolve the Lebanese problem, and expressed his appreciation that his majesty had entrusted Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and His Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, his majesty's ambassador in Washington, to follow up efforts for a cease-fire. He added he hoped that all difficulties faced by the Lebanese people will be overcome through Saudi efforts. Mas'ud expressed to the president the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's trust that Lebanese leaders will unite and place Lebanon's interests above everything else. The president expressed his appreciation to his majesty's government to having agreed to dispatch a Saudi observer to the second round of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference. The Saudi observer is Ahmad Qattan, who will act as representative of the Foreign Ministry.

Al-Jumayyil To Address Conference

NC121322 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Telephone dispatch from the Lebanese Information Ministry mission in Lausanne — live]

[Excerpt] In approximately 4 and 1/2 hours, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil will open the second round of the National Dialogue Conference on the ground floor of the Beau Rivage Hotel in Lausanne in the presence of the leaders of the Dialogue Body: [former] Presidents Camille Sham'un and Sulayman Franjiyah; [former Chamber of Deputies] Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran; [former] Prime Ministers Sa'ib Salam and Rashid Karami; [Phalange Party leader] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil; [Amal Movement leader] lawyer Nabih Birri; and [Progressive Socialist Party leader] Walid Junblatt. The conference will also be attended by Syrian representative 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, first vice president, and Saudi representative Minister of State Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mas'ud.

President al-Jumayyil will deliver an elaborate six-page speech. He will begin by referring to the recent developments in Lebanon during the period between the first round of the dialogue that was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva and the second round being held in Lausanne. The president will review the most prominent political and security developments that occurred during that phase.He will also call on the leaders meeting in Lausanne to proceed together in a new and serious attempt to build the Lebanon of the future for which everyone aspires, in loyalty to the martyrs whom all groups have sacrificed, and in the service of the homeland which must be rebuilt.

After presenting the hopes that the Lebanese people attach to the Lausanne meetings, the president will define the picture of the new Lebanon as he sees it, on the basis of the stands and principles on which the Lebanese agreed, and which were contained in the 28 points he defined in the annex to the message he addressed on the eve of the eruption of the recent clashes in Beirut, the suburb, and the mountain.

Informed sources said the government will present its views and proposals on the future of Lebanon. They are derived from the 28 points and the common will of the Lebanese to emerge from the crisis and the current conflict to the phase of peaceful and modern construction of a united society.

Following this, President al-Jumayyil is expected to adjourn the session until tomorrow morning to discuss the agenda.

Army Commander Reportedly Resigns

NC121220 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 12 (AFP) — General Ibrahim Tannus, commander of the Lebanese Army, and several other high-ranking officers have handed in their resignations to President Amin al-Jumayyil, press reports citing Defence Ministry sources said here today. The move was apparently taken to faciliate negotiations at the Reconciliation Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland, where opposition sources said the reorganisation of the Army's command structure was to be discussed.

Observers said the action was in line with the opposition's demands that those responsible for the bloodshed and destruction in Beirut and the surrounding mountains since the beginning of February should be held accountable. The leader of the Amal Shi'ite Militia, Nabih Birri, has repeatedly called for an investigation into the indiscriminate shelling of the civilian population and a trial of those responsible for the massacres as a necessary condition before political reforms can be discussed.

The press said that President al-Jumayyil would announce the resignations at the conference as a goodwill gesture towards Mr Birri and the leader of the opposition Progressive Socialist Party, Walid Junblatt.

Government Contacts With Syria Before Conference

Al-Jumayyil Phones Syria's Khaddam

NC092146 Paris AFP in English 2116 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 9 (AFP) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil today spoke to Syrian Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam by telephone, authoritative sources said. No official details of the talk were given, but well-informed sources said it concerned the number of representatives to attend Monday's Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Monsignor Agnatios IV Kakim, patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and the East, today deplored the fact that Lebanese Christians would only be represented by Maronites. A parliamentary delegation for the Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, and Armenian faiths met President al-Jumayyil this afternoon regarding the representation at Lausanne.

Al-Jumayyil Phones Al-Asad

NC101142 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] A telephone contact took place this morning between Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad. Prime Minister al-Wazzan also took part in the conversation, which covered the Lebanese situation and the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan had the following to say:

[Begin recording] My meeting with the president on the eve of his departure for Lausanne was necessitated by the need to hold consultations on certain current matters in the Lebanese arena, and on the ideas that would prevail at the upcoming conference, toward which the Lebanese feel optimistic and on which they pin hopes. We hope the conference will put an end to the sufferings in Lebanon and be a starting point for a better life in all domains.

It was also an opportunity for me to be present during a telephone call between Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad. I also participated in the conversation, which covered the current situation in an attempt to achieve unity and full cooperation at this critical stage through which the homeland is passing. We cannot but wish the conferees [in Lausanne] complete success in the service of Lebanon. [end recording]

Al-Jumayyil Meets Al-Asad

NC101256 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA) — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received at noon today Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, who arrived suddenly in the Syrian capital. Damascus radio did not report anything on the meeting.

This sudden visit comes before the Lebanese President's departure tomorrow for Lausanne, Switzerland, to attend the Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference which begins Monday.

Government Contacts, Policy Prior to Conference

Shaykhani on Al-Jumayyil Optimism

NC091331 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Following his meeting with the president of the Republic, Justice and Information Minister Roger Shaykhani today said in a statement that he found President al-Jumayyil very optimistic over the future of the country, and that he sees the Lausanne Conference as a new page in the history of Lebanon. He pointed out that President al-Jumayyil informed him that all matters will be discussed in Lausanne in a positive manner. Minister Shaykhani affirmed that Syrian assurances exist in which the regime has full confidence regarding the stability of the situation and establishment of security in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, informed sources said President al-Jumayyil is making serious efforts for the representation of all communities in the Lausanne Conference, and the results of those efforts will appear soon.

President, Al-Wazzan Meet

NC101031 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan have been meeting at the Presidential Palace since 1000 this morning to discuss the current conditions and affairs related to the National Dialogue Conference. President al-Jumayyil will leave Beirut for Switzerland via Cyprus later today.

'Adil 'Usayran, [former Chamber of Deputies] speaker and [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam left Beirut this morning aboard a military helicopter which transported them and their companions from the military beach to Cyprus. They will proceed from Cyprus to Lausanne to participate in the National Dialogue Conference.

Various Factions' Statements, Contacts Noted

Christian Urges Confederation

LD092024 Kuwait KUNA in English 1921 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, March 9 (KUNA) — Karim Baqraduni, one of the main leaders of the Christian militias, "the Lebanese forces", called for the creation of "cantons in Lebanon, considering that "the current distribution of power between the different Lebanese communities has to be settled within a confederation." [quotation marks as received]

In an interview released Friday by *LIBERATION*, Baqraduni, who has been entrusted by the Phalange Party with having contacts with Syria, added that the "root of the Lebanese problem is a difference in phase between the inter-institutional system and the social-political reality of Lebanon".

"The only issue", he said, "would consist of setting up another formula, which basic idea is the decentralisation at least on the double level of development and military problems. Any attempt which denies the reality of cantons, and intends to once again centralise the power, rebuild only one army, one administration, one university, will result in a new war," he declared.

Baqraduni said that he was expecting "a truce" from the Reconciliation Conference to be held in Lausanne next Monday, and believed that there would be "a general agreement on government of national union which will stumble over a number of problems".

"Lausanne", he went on, "will not be a great political event in the history of the Lebanese war. It will begin with a lot of hopes and will end on small results".

Baqraduni also said Israel is a little confused in Lebanon.

Greek Orthodox Representation Sought

NC101910 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The Greek Orthodox community has issued a statement emphasizing the community's position and earlier resolutions regarding its right to be represented at, and to fully participate in, the [National] Dialogue Conference. The statement concluded by saying that disregarding any faction will yield no good.

The Higher Council of the Greek Catholics also issued a statement today saying that the Greek Catholic community will not be bound by Lausanne conference resolutions if the community is not fully represented at the conference.

Various Leaders' Statements

NC111355 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Telephone dispatch by the Information Ministry team to the second round of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland on 11 March — recorded]

[Excerpts] Bilateral contacts among the leaders attending the National Dialogue Conference intensified to reach a common view on the topics that will be raised in a positive and cooperative spirit in an attempt to build the new Lebanon.

[Former] President Camille Sham'un contacted Pierre al-Jumayyil and discussed with him the working paper which the Lebanese Front submitted to the Dialogue Conference. The Phalangist leader contacted certain leaders of the delegations attending this round. Sham'un also contacted [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam.

[Former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami received 'Adil 'Usayran. They discussed the atmosphere prevailing prior to the commencement of the National Dialogue Conference. Following the meeting, Karami spoke to the Information Ministry team. He said:

[Begin recording] [Karami] I don't want to prejudge the conference and its possible results. However, it is my personal feeling that we are approaching the end of this painful crisis. Differences and conflicts exist, because otherwise, we wouldn't have reached our present situation. What is shameful, though, are the barbaric methods we employed against each other.

We will not fail if we are sincere in our loyalty to our country and people — as our fathers and forefathers did not fail to prepare the Constitution and obtain independence — to have the honor of consolidating and entrenching this independence on correct bases and principles that could restore the hopes and realize the aspirations of everyone. I am confident that the outbiddings, which regrettably have become a type of tactic, will end at the conference. The people have become weary to the extent they can longer tolerate violent words now that the violence of explosions and fighting have worn them out. We hope to bring happy news to all within a few days by agreeing on the new Lebanon, which will embody the aspirations of all the Lebanese.

[Unidentified reporter] Has the National Salvation Front agreed on a working paper on the issues to be raised, particularly on the question of the political, administrative, and military reforms?

[Karami] Undoubtedly, our views and stands are identical. We will submit our views and proposed solutions. We will listen with an open mind to all proposals, and debate such proposals to achieve what will satisfy everyone and ensure Lebanon's stability, security, and prosperity.

[Reporter] You came to Lausanne from Damascus, where you held meetings. What is the attitude in the Syrian capital toward the Dialogue Conference?

[Karami] Undoubtedly, fraternal Syria is interested in Lebanon as much as it is interested in its own issues and interests. The two countries are twins and their common interests behoove them to continue their consultations, coordination, and cooperation. This is natural because what happens to one of them has a positive or negative effect on the other. I can say that Syria is always prepared to help extricate Lebanon from this ordeal. [end recording]

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri held several contacts. He received Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary 'Abdallah al-Amin and discussed with him the atmosphere prevailing prior to the convocation of the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne. He also met with members of his delegation to the conference and discussed the contacts that took place in Damascus and which will be resumed here with leaders of the National Salvation Front. Birri is expected to meet this afternoon with Karami and Junblatt, who is due to arrive at Hotel Beau Rivage at any time. Birri will also call on 'Adil 'Usayran at his wing in the hotel.

Following the series of contacts he held, Birri spoke to the Information Ministry's team on his views regarding the Lausanne conference. He said:

[Begin recording] [Birri] Whoever sees what has happened in West Beirut and the southern suburb over the past 2 days will clearly discover that there is military pressure, which could be interpretated as an attempt at political pressure to make us retreat from certain stands. We emphasize that this will never happen because we do not have any factional or sectarian demands, only general Lebanese demands. The first demand is canceling political sectarianism. The second demand is bringing to account those responsible for what has taken place and is taking place in the southern suburb. According to the information I received, the suburb suffered more destruction and casualties yesterday. Such a situation does not herald much good. Prior to our coming to Lausanne,the Amal Movement and National Salvation Front took a step toward reopening the airport. It is our opinion that such a step would have created an atmosphere of optimism if implemented. However, it has regrettably received no response from the other side. Under all circumstances, the conference will begin tomorrow. We hope the ideas which prevailed in Lebanon and among the Lebanese since 1943 will change. The notion that Lebanon is a piece of cheese that should be shared by more than one cat or wolf must be changed. We must think about the interests of Lebanon — the Lebanon of equality, justice, and efficiency.

[Unidentified reporter] The Lausanne conference is being held under a pressing atmosphere, if the term is correct, in the south. The national resistance continues its operations and Israel continues its threat to withdraw. How do you view the situation in the south?

[Birri] Indeed there are reports indicating that Israel might exert pressure on the Lausanne conference, and on the accord among the Lebanese, by effecting a quick partial withdrawal. This could happen during the conference with a view to obstructing it.

I appeal to all brothers in the south to remain steadfast and maintain their fraternity an unity, and provide for no opportunity for dispute among themselves because the south is the future Lebanon represented by this unity and coexistence.

[Reporter] A final question, if you permit. Was an agreement reached between the Amal Movement and National Salvation Front regarding one working paper during your meeting with the Front's leaders in Damascus.

[Birri] The fact is that there is an Amal working paper. Imam Musa as-Sadr drafted this paper in 1977. Some changes have been introduced to this paper. We held a long discussion to reach common denominators between us and the National Salvation Front. We can say there are positive steps in this regard, but we have not yet agreed on one paper expressing the views of all the leaders of the Salvation Front and Amal Movement. However, there is some understanding between the Progressive Socialist Party and Amal Movement on many issues.

[Reporter] Some media reports said you are pessimistic over the results of the Lausanne conference. Could you elaborate?

[Birri] I didn't say I am pessimistic, but I said I am not optimistic. [end recording]

UAE Daily Quotes Leaders

GF120930 Doha QNA in Arabic 0821 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Mar (QNA) — Lebanese Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has stressed the need to make the National Dialogue Conference — which resumes its meetings today in the Swiss city of Lausanne — put an end to the agony, torture, and destruction not only in certain Lebanese regions but throughout the country. He said that resuming the dialogue has become a goal in itself, especially if all parties have a sincere desire to bury their differences in the dialogue and return from it with an agreement and with a new vision of how to build the aspired-for homeland.

In a statement published in today's issue of the newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD*, Mr Birri added: We all must realize that this time there is no room for maneuvering and that it is a must to reform, provide equality, eliminate political sectarianism, and call to account those responsible for what has happened to Lebanon whoever they are. He stressed the necessity of making the Lausanne conference the proper place to discuss the Lebanese problems and their solutions, and not an 'ukaz market' [a market that existed in the Arabian Peninsula before Islam].

On the other hand, former Lebanese Prime Minister Mr Sa'ib Salam stressed the necessity that all parties remain hopeful that Lebanon will be rescued and that it will be rebuilt and become stronger than it was.

In a similar statement to *AL-ITTIHAD*, he said the mines planted here and there are difficult to remove or defuse within hours or days, but we must not lose hope because losing hope means an end to everything including Lebanon itself.

Karami On Conference

NC091229 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Prior to his departure today for Damascus, [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami made the following statement to our correspondent:

We are leaving for Lausanne with the help of Almighty God, who undoubtedly will guide our steps toward achieving our aspirations for peace, good, and amity for everyone. We are confident that we will attain success because actions are judged by intentions. While sharing the pains and sufferings of our citizens during the past 9 years, we feel a responsibility to achieve cooperation and unify efforts for the sake of harmony and accord.

Karami added: There is no doubt that everyone will be responsible for implementing the reform program which will be worked out in Lausanne.

KUNA Views Factions' Stands

LD111734 Kuwait KUNA in English 1611 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Lausanne, Mar 11 (KUNA) — Lebanese opposition leaders prepared to launch into the second round of negotiations in Switzerland Monday to achieve at least a fair power-sharing formula in Lebanon to end nine years of civil war, but the prospects of success already appeared limited. The opposition — the National Salvation Front and Shi'te Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri — were in a stronger position than ever before to bring about political reform, change the structure of the Army, and amend the Constitution.

Their military successes against the Lebanese Army, the belated abrogation a week ago of the agreement with Israel on troop withdrawals, and the departure of the U.S. Marines had seen to that.

But the hardline stand taken in advance of the Lausanne talks by the rightist Christian leaders, in particular their refusal to discuss a reform of the Constitution, threatened to prevent a breakthrough agreement on badly needed concessions.

While their public attitude was seen by observers as a possible pre-bargaining position, the refusal to limit the power of the Maronite president, and to create a fully representative Senate, flatly refuted some of the key opposition demands. The opposition also faced the Lebanese Front's plan for sectarian cantons and the risk of a divided Lebanon.

More worrying still was the call by Phalange Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil for Israel's occupying troops to stay on in Lebanon until Syria withdraws its forces, and the stated intention of the right-wing Christian militia not to be bound by the outcome of the Lausanne Reconciliation Conference.

As the eight factional leaders got ready to lay out their negotiating positions, worked out in intense contacts over the past few days, Syria was hoping that at the least a national unity government would emerge, sources said. However, more likely would be only guidelines for an eventual settlement, observers commented.

Given the obstacles standing in the way of an agreement in Lausanne, and the breaches of the latest cease-fire in Lebanon, it was not surprising that Amal chief Birri was pessimistic, and Druze leader Walid Junblatt said on arrival in Geneva he was also "a little pessimistic" about the chances of success.

The opposition, on top of the reforms it was seeking, has sought to discuss in Lausanne responsibility for the Lebanese Army's shelling of residential areas in the south of Beirut and the mountains, and the role of President Amin al-Jumayyil in orders to carry out the destruction.

The Lausanne conference, like the first round of talks held in Geneva four months ago, will be attended by Syria and Saudi Arabia as observers, with a number of other countries expected to be present on the sidelines, including the United States.

The Syrian delegation, now crucial to any settlement, will be headed by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who held further discussions Sunday in Damascus with senior Soviet Government representative Geydar Aliyev, the highest-ranking Soviet leader seen in the Syrian capital for four years.

The Saudis will be led at the conference by Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud and Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri.

Swiss authorities were taking no chances on security arrangements for the talks in Lausanne, a city which in the past has seen many important peace treaties concluded. Although the Swiss have denied the report of a planned assassination attempt against Junblatt and Birri, the 300-bed luxury hotel on Lake Geneva where the negotiations open Monday has become a military fortress. Barbed wire, sandbagged posts, armoured vehicles, and high metal fencing seal off the Beau-Rivage Palace. Several hundred police will be on hand to ensure President al-Jumayyil and the other delegates get back to Lebanon safely.

Reportage on Various Factions' Working Papers

VOL On Phalange Paper

NC111623 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Dispatch from Voice of Lebanon, team in Lausanne — recorded]

[Excerpt] A joint meeting was held this morning involving the Phalangist and national liberal sides attended by [former] President Camille Sham'un. It was agreed to unify the slightly amended working paper. A second meeting will be held today at 1700, with Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil attending, to ratify the final text of the unified working paper, which will touch on the political and administrative structure of Lebanon, and will propose radical solutions to the Lebanese problem.

We have been informed that there are themes dealing with a type of federal system without being of a partitioning nature. The

Lebanese Front's working paper defines Lebanon as an independent Arab federal republic with provinces or districts, and a federal authority responsible for its foreign and defense policies. Every province is to have a governor and executive council, as well as a decisionmaking council whose policy is to be aligned with the central government's.

PSP Raps Phalange Plan

NC091900 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] According to available information, a premeditated plan exists to sabotage the [National Dialogue] Conference before it convenes, or during its meeting on Monday and Tuesday. In fact, it has been learned that the paper which Amin al-Jumayyil will take to the conference concentrates on rejecting a radical reform of the Constitution and the laws, and calls for the establishment of a form of security or military decentralization. This is in conformity with the proposals to be presented by the Phalangists in their name and on behalf of their partner, Camille Sham'un [former president and National Liberal Party leader], who has stated that he is in general agreement with the Phalangists. Sham'un and [Phalangist Party leader] Pierre al-Jumayyil are discussing the drafting of a unified working paper.

Among the most distinctive characteristics of the Lebanese Front's working paper is the fact that it very openly proposes the notion of establishing a federation or confederation, insists on preventing the abolishment of political sectarianism, and seeks sectarian or zonal separation (al-farz at-ta'ifi aw al-manatiqi).

Working Papers Viewed

GF091540 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Mar 84 p 16

[Dispatch from *AL-QABAS* correspondent in Beirut Amin 'Ayyash]

[Text] The disputing Lebanese sides will discuss next Monday in Lausanne three different working papers provided that reconciliation takes place first — at the beginning of the dialogue — prior to approving the principles of reforms that will be agreed upon to form an expanded new government.

The working papers are the following:

1. The working paper of the ruling regime: It will encompass the demands of all sides. It calls for the establishment of a senate; dividing the seats equally; and increasing the number of senate members, in addition to reviewing the legislative laws and introducing constitutional reforms.

2. The working paper of the Lebanese Front. It includes proposals o adopt the system of cantons (independent provinces), in addition to having a central government in Beirut.

. The Islamic national working paper calls for reducing the residential term to 3 years and allowing the president to run for second term; equal division of seats in the National Assembly; elimination of political sectarianism while preserving sectarianism in the three main posts [president, prime minister, and speaker of the National Assembly]. The paper also proposes the establishment of a senate under the chairmanship of a Druze.

Working Papers Shelved

NC111417 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpt] It has been learned from press reports in Lausanne that the conferees to the National Dialogue Conference, whose second round will convene tomorrow, have agreed to submit a group of ideas instead of the working papers that they had prepared.

More on Conference Prior to Convocation

Meeting Delayed Several Hours

NC112014 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] In its latest recorded dispatch, the Information Ministry team reported that it had been officially announced at 2100 today that the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne has been postponed from 1000 until 1800 [1600 GMT]. It has been learned that the postponement has been prompted by the fact that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will be late and that he is expected in Switzerland at noon tomorrow.

AFP Cited on Agenda

NC112022 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Citing well-informed sources in Beirut, AFP reports today that the National Dialogue Conference will be preceded by a meeting between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The source said Khaddam will meet with all the conferees.

Citing the same source, AFP adds that the conferees will discuss the political aspect of the Lebanese crisis on Tuesday and form committees to study the proposals that will be submitted by the various sides. The source said the new prime minister might be elected to head the national salvation government, and the conference would perhaps wind up its work after that.

The source said that President al-Jumayyil will focus on four points he believes necessary to reach a solution to the Lebanese crisis in his opening speech. These points are: The cease-fire should be firmly established; all conferees should fully recognize Lebanon as their homeland, its unity, and the need for its liberation; all conferees should approve a formula for a new Lebanon; and a national salvation government should be formed.

After laying down the conference agenda, the session will resume on Tuesday morning, when President al-Jumayyil will deliver a speech in which he will explain the causes for the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli accord, which was ratified on 17 May 1983. The same source said President al-Jumayyil will point out that

Lebanon has not yet been liberated from foreign forces. He will also present ways and means to establish peace in Lebanon.

Quadripartite Government Possible

NC120710 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] It has been learned from informed sources in Lausanne that the conferees will seek agreement on the formation of a new government. The backstage consultations tend to favor a four-way government headed by Rashid Karami and including [former] Presidents Sham'un and Franjiyah, and Nabih Birri as members.

The same sources add that Junblatt prefers not to take part in this government so as to remain free to carry out his schemes for a Junblattist mini-state.

PSP on Conference

NC112126 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Recent information received from Lausanne indicates that the conference of judgement and trial (al-muhasabati wa al-muhakamati) has been postponed until tomorrow afternoon. Meanwhile, the so-called Lebanese Front held a meeting tonight in which it reiterated its adherence to the establishment of a confederal system in Lebanon.

Amin al-Jumayyil is attempting to present himself as an arbitrator between the conferees and to preside over the meetings. However, the patriotic resistance rejects this and considers the dialogue to be between two sides: One side is represented by the National Salvation Front with all its representatives, and the other side is represented by the so-called Lebanese Front — of which Amin al-Jumayyil is only a member.

In this context, we should recall that the patriotic working paper insists that the Lebanese identity is fully Arab — a matter which was decided in Geneva during the first Dialogue Conference. The paper also stresses the need to return to the 1943 [as heard] Truce Agreement, and to cling to the resolutions of the UN Security Council which preserve Lebanon's rights. The paper also calls for the support of the national steadfastness and resistance, and for the judgment and punishment of those responsible for the massacres and devastation which occurred in the [southern Beirut] suburb, the mountain, Beirut, and the [Al-Kharrub] region. The hegemony of the one party should also be canceled with all this entails.

This patriotic stand aims at reaching a radical solution which precludes a replay of the tragedies and outlines the primary features of a new Lebanon which fulfills the dreams of its people.

In this respect, a political source today stated that the Lausanne dialogue is the type of dialogue conducted between one group which is doing its best to achieve an Arab, free, and unified Lebanon, and another trying to save itself and maintain its hegemony by partitionist steps.

U.S., UK, Egypt to Attend

NC091514 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has stated that the United States, Britain, France, Switzerland, and Egypt have decided to send observers to the National Dialogue Conference [in Lausanne]. Salim was quoted as saying the United States will be represented by (David Wayne), political adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, and Britain will be represented by (Richard Palmer), first counselor at the British Embassy in Lebanon.

It is known that Syria and Saudi Arabia will participate at the conference as observers.

UN's Urquhart Postpones Visit 'Until Next Week'

NC121017 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry was notified today by the UN office in Beirut that Brian Urquhart, UN assistant secretary general for political affairs, who was scheduled to arrive in Beirut tomorrow, Tuesday, has postponed his visit to until next week.

Al-Wazzan Quoted on Israel's Plans in South

NC111732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Highly placed official sources have disclosed that high-level contacts have taken place in the wake of recent reports on the possible withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Al-Awwali area and their evacuation from Sidon within the next 2 days under the pretext of redeploying these forces.

The official sources called for exercising vigilance and taking all necessary measures to confront any contingencies and any setback that might result from this step. The National News Agency has learned that the prime minister has held a series of contacts with the competent military and political leaders to this effect. He also phoned Sidon Deputy Dr Nabih al-Bizri to stress the need for the town's leaders to be cautious vis-a-vis all contingencies and the IDF's objectives, particularly at this critical stage.

Israelis Believed To Be Withdrawing Southwards

NC091933 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] It is believed in Sidon and the south that a partial Israeli withdrawal from the Al-Awwali River toward the Az-Zahrani River will take place soon. According to information received from Sidon today, there has been unusual Israeli vehicular movement on the Az-Zahrani-An-Nabatiyah public road. More than 40 Israeli vehicles, including large tanks, were seen passing southward through Musaylah. What strengthens this belief is the intensive deployment of militias in the center of Sidon, particularly at Sidon Port. The Free Lebanon militias completed their deployment at the port last night and established observation posts equipped with heavy weapons.

IDF Imposes Movement Restrictions in South

NC120930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli forces have imposed restrictions on the freedom of movement by citizens between the area of Hasbayya and the rest of the southern areas. The report adds that these restrictions will take effect 15 March. The restrictions will ban movement from the Hasbayya area via the Rashayya Alwadi-Marj 'Uyun Road to the remaining southern areas.

The Israeli forces continue to prevent the cargo ship (*Zaman*) from unloading its flour cargo at the port of Sidon. The cargo was sent by the Ministry of Economy and Trade for the south.

Israelis Detain An-Nabatiyah Governor, Others

NC091211 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] At 1030 today, two hand grenades were hurled at an Israeli enemy patrol on the main street in An-Nabatiyah opposite the Governorate's Building. The number of casualties suffered by the patrol is thus far unknown. The Israeli forces in the city cordoned off the area, and detained An-Nabatiyah Governor Ibrahim Faqih and Tyre and Bint Jubayl District Officer Ghassan Haydar for over 2 hours. The two men and more than 30 officials and others were held in a room of the An-Nabatiyah Police Station on the pretext that two handgrenade rings were found on the roof of the Government House in An-Nabatiyah.

Israeli officers interviewed the governor and district officer, who were later released, while the others were taken to Israeli headquarters for investigation.

Soviet Experts Reportedly Positioned in Bhamdun

NC100619 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] A wide-scale rotation operation was carried out during the past 48 hours affecting the Soviet experts between Bhamdun and Al-Matn. Security sources said Soviet personnel have been spotted in the Bhamdun and Sawfar areas manning vehicles and artillery pieces that the Junblattists had obtained from the Soviet Union. The number of Soviet experts is estimated at 165.

Meanwhile, tension continues to reign supreme in the Palestinian camp in Ba'labakk in the wake of a clash between two opposing Palestinian Liberation Front factions. The clash left one fighter dead and two others wounded.

In Ba'labakk, and specifically the township of Al-'Ayn, an armed clash erupted between the Amal Movement led by Husayn al-Musawi and Syrian soldiers. Two Syrian soldiers were wounded.

Syrians Detain Muslim Brotherhood Members

NC111323 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from Tripoli indicate that the special units and defense companies under the command of Rif'at al-Asad, the Syrian president's brother, have put up roadblocks at the entrances of Tripoli in Al-Qubbah in the direction of 'Akkar, in Al-Mallulah on the northern coastline, and in Al-Bahsas on the southern coastline. The Syrian units have been detaining members of the Muslim Brotherhood and supporters of the Islamic Unification Movement, and transporting them to Syria.

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack on French Embassy

NC091321 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 9 (AFP) — The Moslem fundamentalist terrorist group, Islamic Jihad, claimed responsibility for rocket attacks today on the French Embassy here and on two French military positions on the demarcation line between East and West Beirut.

The French Embassy said it was not aware of an attack on its compound, but Lebanese police said that an Arab-language reporter with Lebanese Government radio, Muhammad Ismail Humani, was killed by a rocket as he walked to work today past the embassy.

Meanwhile, informed French sources said a rocket-propelled grenade fell early today close to French positions on the demarcation line.

In a communique, Islamic Jihad warned civilians not to approach "institutions and positions (held by) the new colonialists" and said: "We shall strike with violence."

It called on France to break its diplomatic ties with Israel, end its support for the Iraq [as received], and immediately pull its troops out of Lebanon.

Gunmen Seize Cars of 2 Diplomats in Beirut

NC091724 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] In Saqiyat Al-Janzir, two gunmen stopped Muhammad Jalal ash-Shannawi, Egyptian information counselor in Beirut, and robbed his car. The car bears diplomatic plate number 9123. Meanwhile, other gunmen blocked the way of Hungarian diplomat (Blanco Asila) as he was entering the embassy compound in Bi'r Hasan and seized his car. It is a white Peugeot bearing diplomatic plate number 126/4.

Indian, Nigerian Embassy Cars Stolen 10 Mar

NC101924 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Indian Embassy in Beirut has stated that while an embassy car — a Peugeot station wagon bearing plate number 135/10 — was parked outside the embassy in the Al-Qantari Quarter, two gunmen attacked an employee inside the car, threw him out, and stole the car.

The consul general at the Nigerian Embassy has complained to the Hubaysh police detachment that an unidentified gunman accosted him on (Ayn as-Sini) Street in West Beirut and stole his car, number 151/2, and drove off to an unidentified destination.

Amal Favors Severance of Lebanese-Libyan Ties

NC100620 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The Amal Movement's Political Bureau yesterday demanded that the Lebanese Government should continue the severance of its relations with the Libyan regime. The bureau added that Al-Qadhdhafi has announced the restoration of these relations, whereas it was Lebanon that had frozen them.

Security Forces Close Down New Party Offices

NC091726 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The Internal Security Forces today completed the task of closing down those party offices in West Beirut established after 6 February. An Internal Security Forces unit, composed of six groups supported by two armored vehicles and commanded by Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki, set out before noon today, visited the various offices, and made sure they were all closed down. The unit encountered no obstacles due to the cooperation given it by the representatives of the parties and organizations.

Amal Gunmen Reportedly Hit Qulaylat's House

NC091218 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Creed conflict in West Beirut is increasing. Amal gunmen yesterday fired a shell at Ibrahim Qulaylat's house, scoring a direct hit during clashes between both sides [Amal gunmen and the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun].

It has been learned that the operation to close party offices and centers in West Beirut was not carried out today as was expected. Reports reveal the primary aim of closing down these offices is to close the Al-Murabitun centers. These offices were opened in various parts of western Beirut in coordination with religious Sunnite and political parties in an attempt to prevent Shi'ite-Druze domination over the area.

RFL Reports Shi'ite, Sunni Clashes 9 Mar

NC091830 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Violent clashes occurred in West Beirut from 1330 between Shi'ite Amal elements and those connected to the popular Sunnite resistance in the Corniche al-Mazra'ah sector. The fighting began following a skirmish between Amal elements and guards in front of a Sunnite resistance office in the area. Reports said the Sunnite elements detained several Amal partisans.

Further deterioration is expected in the western portion of the capital with the failure of the plan for closing all militia premises as was decided earlier.

New Government Formed, Vice Presidents Named

JN112136 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2120 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Dr ‘Abd ar-Ra‘uf al-Kasm completed today, Sunday, his contacts to form the new government. He submitted to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad a list of the ministers' names. President al-Asad approved Dr ‘Abd ar-Ra‘uf al-Kasm's proposal, and issued Decree No 694, dated 11 March 1984, forming the government as follows:

1. Dr ‘Abd ar-Ra‘uf al-Kasm, prime minister
2. General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister
3. Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs
4. ‘Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs
5. Major General Nasir ad-Din Nasir, minister of interior
6. Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of supply and internal trade
7. Muhammad Najib as-Sayyid Ahmad, minister of education
8. Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs
9. Mahmud Qaddur, minister of industry
10. ’Abd al-Karim ‘Adi, minister of local administration
11. Dr Najah al-‘Attar, minister of culture
12. Yusuf Ju‘aydani, minister of social affairs and labor
13. Dr Salim Yasin, minister of economy and foreign trade
14. Faruq ash-Shar‘, minister of foreign affairs
15. Nayif Ta‘ani, minister of state for People's Assembly affairs
16. Dr Hamdi as-Saqqa, minister of finance
17. Dr Nawras ad-Daqr, minister of tourism
18. Khalid al-Maliki, minister of justice
19. Mikhayil Naqqul, minister of state
20. Ra‘fat al-Kurdi, minister of communications
21. Ahmad Salim Darwish, minister of housing and utilities
22. Dr Ghasub ar-Rifa‘i, minister of health
23. Dr Muhammad Muhammad al-Khatib, minister of religious trusts
24. Yunis Muhammad, minister of transportation
25. ‘Ammash Juday‘, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform
26. ‘Abd ar-Rahman Madani, minister of irrigation
27. Dr Dawud Hidu, minister of state
28. Antoine Jubran, minister of state for cabinet affairs
29. Dib al-Masri, minister of state
30. Hikmat Bayazid, minister of state
31. Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs
32. Yasin Rajjuh, minister of information
33. Dr Ziyad ash-Shuwayki, minister of higher education
34. Kamil al-Baba, minister of electricity
35. Dr Ghazi ad-Durubi, minister of oil and antural rescurces
36. Riyad Baghdadi, minister of construction [al-insha‘ wa at-ta‘mir].

President al-Asad issued decree no 693, dated 11 March 1984, accepting Dr ‘Abd ar-Ra‘uf al-Kasm's government.

His excellency also issued three decrees appointing three vice presidents. These are Decrees No. 690, dated 11 March 1984, naming ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam as vice president; Decree No. 691 naming Dr Rif‘at al-Asad as vice president; and Decree No. 692 naming Zuhayr Mashariqah as vice president.

USSR's Aliyev Meets With Syrian Leaders

Aliyev Welcomed By Khaddam

JN101127 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Comrade Geydar Aliyev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived in Damascus at noon today heading an official delegation on a 3-day visit to Syria. Aliyev was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Jabr al-Kifri, director of the Foreign Ministry's East Europe Department; the Foreign Ministry's protocol director; and the USSR ambassador in Damascus.

Khaddam, Aliyev Hold Talks

JN101645 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Talks were held at the Foreign Ministry today between ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Faruq ash-Shar‘, minister of state for foreign affairs; ‘Isam an-Na‘ib, assistant foreign minister; and Jabr al-Kafri, head of the East European desk at the Foreign Ministry. The talks were attended on the Soviet side by the delegation that accompanies Mr Aliyev, and Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Vladimir Yukhin. The two sides discussed the current international situation, the situation in the region, and bilateral friendly relations.

Khaddam, Aliyev Exchange Speeches

JN102020 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] At the luncheon that ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam hosted in honor of Geydar Aliyev and the delegation accompanying him, Khaddam stressed that through its national policy, Syria has proven that it is able to confront the aggression and foil the aggressors's designs. He said: We were able to inflict a big defeat on the hostile and adventurous policy of the United States and Israel. Khaddam praised the role of the Lebanese nationalist resistance regarding the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. He described the abrogation as proving that the adoption of a national policy that expresses the people's aspirations and hopes is the sound method that must be adopted by strugglers for freedom and dignity. Khaddam said that the value of abrogating the agreement lies in foiling the legitimacy of occupation and the defeat brought about by this abrogation to the United States and the Israeli enemy in the region. He pointed out that Lebanon's success in abrogating the agreement proves that there is a possibility to foil the Camp David course and the treaty between the Egyptian Government and the Israeli enemy. He called on the brothers in Egypt to follow Lebanon's example and adopt a national decision represented by cancelling the Camp David accords.

Regarding the sides that seek to increase Lebanon's embarrassment due to its historical decision, Khaddam pointed to the instructions that President Hafiz al-Asad had given to the Syrian delegation that will participate in the Lausanne conference — instructions to exert every possible effort to contribute toward achieving national accord and restoring Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. Khaddam pointed out that the abrogation of the 17 May agreement has closed all the roads to all those who chase after the imaginary U.S. solutions and settlements. Khaddam praised the USSR's great role in supporting us in all fields. He said that the USSR has proved that it is a country that is friendly and loyal to Syria and the Arabs. He said: Thanks to USSR support, Syria now possesses new defensive capabilities that enable it to stand fast and defend its national line. Khaddam described Syrian-USSR relations at present as expressing themselves through the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, the USSR's support for us, and the fulfillment of the obligations of friendship and cooperation. He pointed out that the above was a result of the long march of joint action through which we and our Soviet friends were able to entrench and promote these relations.

Geydar Aliyev delivered a speech in which he said that his visit to Damascus is new proof of the cooperation between the two countries which is based on the unity of the interests of the Syrian and Soviet peoples, their struggle against imperialism and reactionary forces, and their desire for peace and social progress. Aliyev held the U.S. Administration responsible for the serious situation in the region. He said that it has declared a crusade against all the progressive and freedom-loving forces in the world. He pointed out that this U.S. policy is confronted resolutely by the USSR and all the peace-loving forces in the world. He stressed that the USSR will not allow the United States and its NATO allies to change the strategic military balance in their favor. He described Washington's actions in the region, its interference in Lebanon, and its threats against Syria as part of its general hostile course and its terrorist, military, and arbitrary actions. Aliyev said: This is why the United States has signed the treaty of strategic cooperation with Israel — a treaty which directly resulted in Israel's insolent aggression against Lebanon.

Aliyev said: We can say that Syria's steadfastness and course played a role in hampering the political and military U.S. pressures. He praised the Syrian stand that is hostile to imperialism, stressing that the USSR will continue its support for Syria. He said that Syria has become the major enemy of imperialism, and that this gives extreme importance to the entire Arab national liberation movement. Aliyev said: We stand at the side of the region's states to put an end to the policy that seeks to impose the imperialist will and that seeks to interfere in the domestic affairs of the region's states. He called for the achievement of a just peace in the region that will guarantee the Palestinian people's national and inalienable rights, including their right to establish their independent state. He also expressed that the USSR will continue to support the Arab cause and the Arab people's struggle against the Israeli aggression for the sake of freedom, independence, and a just peace in the Middle East.

Further Details of Speeches

JN102127 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Talks were held at the Foreign Ministry this evening between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Geydar Aliyev, memebr of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Isam an-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister; and Jabr al-Kafri, head of the East European desk at the Foreign Ministry. The talks were attended on the Soviet side by the delegation accompanying Aliyev and Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Vladimir Yukhin. The two sides discussed the current international situation, the situation in the region, and relations between the two friendly countries.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam hosted a luncheon this afternoon in honor of Aliyev. In a speech at the banquet, Khaddam stressed that the abrogation of the agreement that the United States and Israel imposed on Lebanon emphasizes that steadfastness, sacrifice, and the adoption of a national policy that expresses the people's outlooks and aspirations is the sound path that must be followed by those struggling for freedom and dignity. He indicated that the value of abrogating that agreement does not only lie in negating any legitimacy of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and in placing this fraternal country along the road of liberation and restoration of its national unity and sovereignty, but also in the fact that the abrogation of the agreement represents a major defeat of the U.S. policy and the Israeli enemy in the region.

Khaddam added: We managed to emphasize to the world that by its national policy, which was drawn up by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party led by Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, Syria is able not only to confront aggression, but also to foil and defeat the aggressors' schemes. He also pointed out the great role the Lebanese nationalist resistance played and is still playing in creating the circumstances that helped to achieve this great result.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister continued: The Arabs must draw important conclusions from Lebanon's success in abrogating the agreement. First among these is the possibility of foiling the Camp David trend and the treaty concluded between the Egyptian Government and the Israeli enemy. Therefore, we appeal to our brothers in Egypt — and Egypt is the greatest sister that is not facing the difficulties and troubles that are facing Lebanon, that small country — to follow the example of the young brother who managed despite his pains, wounds, and difficulties to be big in his national decision and great in his ability to exist and in his determination to overcome all the troubles, pains, and disasters facing him. All the Arab citizens turn theri minds, hearts, and feelings to Cairo, wondering if Cairo will be great in its national decision as Beirut was. We affirm to our brothers in Egypt that the Arab nation will share with them the responsibility for the national decision with all the burdens entailed by this decision if they rise in the manner fraternal Lebanon did. Khaddam added that while talking about the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, we realize that more than one side will work to further perplex Lebanon due to its historic decision. In this regard, I would like to refer to the instructions that Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Party and president of the republic, gave to the Syrian delegation participating in the national dialogue conference. In these instructions, he called for exerting all efforts so that the Lebanese brothers can achieve a national accord and restore their unity and sovereignty over all their territory, and so that the new dialogue session can be a conference for national peace in Lebanon.

Khaddam added: Syria's responsibility toward helping our brothers in Lebanon is a pan-Arab responsibility due to the fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries. Toppling the 17 May agreement has placed the Arabs on a new road and closed all the doors for those chasing after the illusions of U.S. solutions and settlements. In this regard, we greatly appreciate the Palestinian nationalist forces which bravely stood agaisnt the policy of deviation, relinquishment, and violation of the PNC resolutions — a policy that has been adopted by some Palestinian leaderships so as to be acceptable to the Americans and Israelis. Khaddam added: While talking about this serious stage in the region's history, we must appreciate and acknowledge the friendly USSR's great role in supporting us in all fields. He said: The USSR has proven that it is a country that is friendly and loyal to Syria and all Arabs. This support was necessary and important to us. Thanks to this support, Syria now possesses a defensive power that adds important capabilites to our moral and material powers and enables us to stand fast and defend our national line.

At the conclusion of his speech, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: The current situation in USSR-Syrian relations, which expresses itself through the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, through the USSR's support for us, and through the fulfillment of the obligations of friendship and cooperation, was the result of a long march of joint action and cooperation through which we and our Soviet friends were able to entrench and promote these relations until they reached their current state. He said that these relations are an example of the cooperation that is based on friendship, mutual respect, and noninterference in domestic affairs.

Geydar Aliyev delivered a speech during the banquet. He stressed that the Syrian-Soviet treaty constitutes a firm basis for real friendship relations, mutual cooperation, and interests between the two countries. He said: Washington spreads the spirit of confrontation in the international arena, escalates tension in various parts of the world, carries out military adventures against sovereign states, and increases the arms race in an unprecedented manner.

He said: Washington seeks to achieve a military superiority. He added that the U.S course constitutes an increasing danger to world peace and that it pushes mankind to a serious brink of nuclear conflict. He said: For this reason, the Middle East was announced as a region of vital interests to the United States. He said that this constitutes another method of the United States to bring this region into the circle of U.S. control. He added: For this particular reason the United States has signed a treaty of strategic cooperation with Israel which directly resulted in an impudent and savage aggression agaisnt an Arab state, Lebanon. He said: The military and political pressures that the U.S. imperialists sought to impose were hampered due to Syria's steadfast stand, which is hostile to imperialism and which enjoys continuous USSR support, and also due to the great success that the Lebanese nationalist forces achieved.

In his speech, Aliyev stressed that the Syrian Arab Republic plays an important role in confronting the Israeli-U.S. plans in the Middle East. He said: For this paricular reason, your country has become the major enemy of imperialism. He said that this gives extreme importance to the entire Arab national liberation movement. Aliyev added: Now we can say that the Syrian machine stands fast in the face of imperialist pressures, and we in the USSR greatly appreciate Syria's principled stand. We will support putting an end to the policy that seeks to impose the imperialist will and interferes in the domestic affairs of the region's states until this region disposes of the imperialist military presence so the Arab people will be able to develop and achieve their aspirations. Aliyev affirmed that the USSR supports the struggler Palestinian Arab people under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, in achieving their national and inalienable rights, including their right to establish their independent state. He added: The USSR supports the expansion and promotion of cooperation between the USSR and Syria and all the Arab states on the basis of equality in rights and mutual respect and to strengthen the Soviet-Syrian and Soviet-Arab relations. He said that the USSR has always been and will continue to support the Arab People's just cause, their struggle against the Israeli aggression, and their desire for freedom, independence, and just peace in the Middle East.

Khaddam,Aliyev Resume Talks

JN111313 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1000 today, a second round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Isam an-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister; and Jabr al-Kafri, director of the East European desk at the Foreign Ministry. The talks were attended on the Soviet side by the delegation accompanying Mr Aliyev; and Vladimir Yukhin, USSR ambassador in Damascus. The two sides resumed their discussion of the current international situation, the situation in the region, and the friendly bilateral relations.

Al-Asad Meets With Aliyev

JN111650 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1310 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and his delegation. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Vladimir Yukhin, USSR ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting. Aliyev conveyed to the president a message from the Soviet leadership, and greetings from CPSU General Secretary Comrade Chernenko. The president thanked him, and asked him to convey similar greetings to Comrade Chernenko and the Soviet leadership. During the meeting, the talks revolved around bilateral cooperation in all spheres, the international situation, the situation in the Middle East, and issues of common interest. The president will continue the talks with Aliyev tomorrow, Monday.

Al-Kasm, Aliyev Hold Talks

JN111914 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and his delegation this evening. Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; and Vladimir Yukhin, USSR ambassador in Damascus; attended the meeting. Their talks revolved around the existing strong relations between Syria and the USSR — relations embodied in the political, economic, cultural, and other spheres. They also discussed matters related to the implementation of the economic, technical, and scientific agreements.

Dr al-Kasm praised the strong and effective cooperation between the two friendly countries, and noted that any victory achieved by Syria and the national forces in the region will make the Syrian-Soviet friendship stronger and more decisive in reinforcing the march of Arab struggle.

During the meeting, Aliyev asserted that the USSR highly evaluates Syria's firm, principled, and steadfast stand in confronting the U.S. and Zionist imperialism in this region. He said: Friendly Syria will always receive moral and material support for its struggle from the USSR.

ATH-THAWRAH on Syria-USSR Ties

JN110903 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 11 Mar (SANA) — The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* has said that the Syrian-Soviet relations are particularly important at this stage because they have become the primary means of supporting the just Arab struggle to liberate the occupied territories and restore the usurped rights. In an editorial entitled "Syrian-Soviet Friendship: Correct Model of International Relations," *ATH-THAWRAH* said that the Syrian-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty has laid down the basis for genuine and diverse Syrian-Soviet cooperation because this treaty has opened a new stage in the two countries bilateral relations. The paper also said: Comrade Aliyev's visit to Damascus comes within this framework. The high-level meetings between the leaders of the two countries have become a deep-rooted tradition in the Syrian-Soviet relations. Such meetings greatly contribute tostrengthening and promoting the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two sides, and hence, form a deterrent force against the imperialist and Zionist forces that attempt to exercise all forms of pressure to divert it [as received] from its progressive-nationalist line and force it to approve the U.S. projects and solutions.

The paper affirmed that the USSR's support for Syria is valued and appreciated by our people and the masses of our nation. The Syrian-Soviet relations have become a model for correct international relations that are based on mutual benefit and respect and on joint struggle to realize security and peace in the Middle East. In conclusion, *ATH-THAWRAH* said: With this framework, it can be affirmed that Comrade Aliyev's visit to Syria will undoubtedly contribute toward developing the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR, and will open new horizons of struggle before our people in order to continue on the path of steadfastness, confront the imperialist-Zionist schemes, and complete the defeat of the U.S. plan — a defeat which began with the withdrawal of the Marines from Beirut and the fall of the agreement of sumbission.

Lebanese Leaders Hold Meetings in Damascus

Franjiyah Arrives

JN091948 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his delegation arrived in Damascus at 1330 today. He was received by 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of presidential affairs, when he arrived at the 'Adrah area. Answering a question about his evaluation of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, Franjiyah said:

[Begin recording] Praise be to God. To stop doing the wrong thing is a virtue — as people say. We stopped doing the wrong thing by abrogating this agreement. I pray to God that this abrogation, which the tortured and war-stricken Lebanon undertook will be an example for those who concluded agreements with Israel. I also hope that this abrogation will be a lesson for whoever thinks of concluding any agreement with the enemy. [end recording]

Karami Arrives, Makes Statement

JN092008 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami arrived in Damascus this afternoon. He was received by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs. Answering a question about what will follow the abrogation of the agreement, Karami said:

[Begin recording] We know what the responsibilities are that we must shoulder regarding the present and future stages, especially concerning the internal Lebanese situation. From this point stems the importance of the second meeting that will be held in Lausanne, because the first meeting in Geneva had already achieved its objectives, whether regarding the abrogation of the agreement or the perpetuation of Lebanon's Arab identity. This is because the abrogation of the agreement is actually a perpetuation of Lebanon's Arabism. Some may wonder here: If Lebanon is not an Arab country, then what country is it going to be? This is what we must confirm everyday because as a result of the colonialist-Zionst conspiracy and its objectives we have seen how Lebanon, after Egypt, signed an agreement with the historical enemy, Israel, which means involving Lebanon in this plot and linking it to the Camp David policy as well as making it a partner to and an ally with Israel. Therefore, when we continuously affirm Lebanon's Arabism, we thus realize its meaning, effect, and importance. [end recording]

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Wazzan Phone Al-Asad

JN101333 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has contacted President Hafiz al-Asad by telephone and congratulated him on the 8 March revolution anniversary, wishing Syria further progress, strength, and power, and wishing the president continued good health. The president thanked the Lebanese president for his congratulations and good wishes. The telephone conversation dealt with issues of common interest. The president also received a telephone call from Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, who conveyed to the president his congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of Syria's 8 March revolution anniversary.

Al-Asad Meets Franjiyah

JN101654 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, who was accompanied by Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi and Robert Franjiyah. Talks revolved around the Lebanese situation in light of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement and the approach of the second round of the Lebanese national dialogue.

Lebanese Nationalists Meet

JN101255 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — The leaders of the Lebanese National Salvation Front [NSF] held a meeting here today attended by former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah; former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami; Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt; Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri; and former Lebanese Ministers Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah. The discussion centered on coordinating the stands of the NSF leaders on the subjects of the National Dialogue Conference's agenda, which will convene in Lausanne on Monday.

Beirut Reports Damascus Meetings

NC092021 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports from Damascus, leaders of the National Salvation Front and the Amal Movement leader held a series of meetings in the Syrian capital today to put the final touches on the joint working paper to be submitted during the second round of the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne. The meetings immediately commenced following the arrivals of [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah, [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and Nabih Birri in Damascus, and the arrival of Walid Junblatt from Amman. Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri attended a portion of these meetings. He left Damascus following a long meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, attended by the National Salvation Front leaders and Amal Movement leader.

Birri Remarks Reported

JN101825 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami left Damascus this afternoon aboard the airliner of Hani Salam, a Lebanese businessman. Prior to his departure from Damascus, Nabih Birri told reporters: We have developed a closeness of viewpoints regarding the various stands presented by the Islamic sides. I hope we will be able to unify these viewpoints in Lausanne.

Asked about Lebanese press reports today on the establishment of a confederation comprising cantons in Lebanon, Birri said verbatim: If that is so, let them prepare for a war that will continue for another 90 years. We are for Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and freedom. We are one people and one country, and we have to achieve justice in it. We will not accept anything short of this. I am not at all optimistic. Thus far I have not received a reply to what I called for, that is, justice.

Birri was asked: Have you reached a unified stand that you will carry with you to Lausanne? He answered: Thus far, I can say we have not reached a unified stand. However, we will continue our dialogue in Lausanne tonight or tomorrow.

Birri was again asked: Have the Syrians attempted to unify your stand? He answered: The Syrians constantly desire the unity of all those in Lebanon, and not only the opposition sides.

Asked if he believes Israel will obstruct the Lausanne conference, he said: I think they will. They will do something that will affect the events and proceedings of the conference. At the same time, I say that I know my people in the south and the Christians and Muslims, too. They were always united and are still united. Therefore, I am not afraid; but it is better for the Israelis to withdraw from all of Lebanon, and not just from part of it.

He was asked: What is your comment on the fighting that occurred yesterday and is taking place today in Beirut? He answered: They did so because I wanted to open the airport. They tried to destroy the entire region, including the airport area.

On another level, a responsible source in the Progressive Socialist Party told us that the working paper submitted by the party calls for the reorganization of the Army from top to bottom. It also calls for the cancellation of the political sectarianism in the country and for the trial of those responsible for what happened in the mountain area and [Beirut's southern] suburb.

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is expected to leave for Geneva tomorrow evening, and most probably on Monday morning after concluding his talks with Geydar Aliyev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers who arrived today in Damascus at the head of an important official delegation. Khaddam received the Soviet guest at the airport and held a first session of talks with him.

Lebanese Opposition Figures Depart

JN102003 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his delegation left Damascus for Lausanne, Switzerland to attend the second national dialogue conference which will open on Monday. Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, and former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami also left Damascus for Lausanne this afternoon to attend the conference. A PSP information source said the National Salvation Front's members will hold an expanded meeting there to put the final touches on the working paper that the Front will present to the national dialogue conference. Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil left Beirut for Lausanne this afternoon to attend the conference.

Al-Asad Confers With Papal Envoy 10 Mar

JN101556 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] At 1400 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Msgr Mario Brini, His Holiness Pope John Paul II's personal emissary, and the accompanying delegation. The papal ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. President Al-Asad received from the papal emissary his holiness the pope's message dealing with the situation in Lebanon. President al-Asad thanked him for the message and asked him to convey his greetings to his holiness the pope. During the meeting, the president emphasized Syria's concern about helping the Lebanese reach a national accord, the only way for Lebanon to overcome its problems. The president also said: We as a country are satisfied when Lebanon enjoys sound conditions, we wish good for all, we love all people, and we will exert every possible effort to help Lebanon and the Lebanese reach agreement among themselves.

Papal Envoy Departs

JN111048 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Msgr Mario Brini, personal emissary of His Holiness Pope John Paul II left Damascus this morning after a visit of several days to Syria during which he conveyd a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from His Holiness The Pope.

USSR's Tereshkova Arrives To Attend Women's Congress

JN091840 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Comrade Valentina Nikolayev-Tereshkova, CPSU Central Committee member, chairman of the Committee of Soviet Women, and the first Soviet woman cosmonaut arrived in Damascus today to participate in the Fourth Congress of the Syrian General Women Federation. In a statement at the airport, Comrade Nikolayev-Tereshkova emphasized the USSR's firm stand in support of our country's pan-Arab struggle stands and Arab Syria's heroic steadfastness against the savage imperialist-Zionist onslaught. She also emphasized here country's complete solidarity with the just Arab struggle causes and its desire to continue to develop the existing ties of cooperation and friendship between the Committee of Soviet Women and the Syrian General Women Federation to further strengthen them so as to serve the interests of both friendly peoples and bolster the common stands of the USSR and Arab Syria. Comrade Nikolayeva-Tereshkova said she was pleased to be invited by the Syrian General Women Federation to attend the Fourth Congress.

Meets Ba'th Official

JN111105 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 11 Mar, (SANA) — Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party last night received Comrade Valentina Tereshkova, CPSU Central Committee member and chairwoman of the Committee of Soviet Women, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was also attended by Comrade Sulayman Qaddah, member of the regional command of the Ba'th Party and head of the regional organisations office; Firyal al-Mahayni, president of the Syrian Women's Federation; and Mary Mardini, head of the foreign relations office in the Women's Federation.

At the beginning of the meeting, Comrade Mashariqah welcomed Comrade Valentina and the delegation accompanying her and thanked her for participating in the Fourth General Congress of the Syrian Women's Federation. He said that any meeting between the Syrian and Soviet parties or popular organisations is a true manifestation of the existing cooperation between our two parties, people, and governments which have far reaching objectives that are important to the interests of our peoples. Comrade Valentina replied by thanking Comrade Mashariqah for his reception, concern, and valuable remarks to the Soviet delegation. She said: I consider this an honor and an sign of respect for our country in the first place, and for us as guests of Syria in the second place. She added: We have strong and lasting relations with the Women's Federation in Syria. We do not deal with this federation in the same way we deal with other federations. Neither do we deal with it on the basis of protocol but on the bases of friendly relations of joint cooperation and struggle. We share the same objective and aspirations and we are certain that we are continuously making new steps to strengthen the joint action that serves the interests of our two peoples and humanity as a whole.

Meets Other Ba'th Officials

JN112026 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received this evening Mrs Valentina Tereshkova, CPSU Central Committee member and chairwoman of the Soviet Women's Committee, and her delegation. Firyal al-Mahayni, president of the Syrian Women's Federation, and Dr Mary Mardini, head of the Women's Federation Foreign Relations Office, attended the meeting. During the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar explained the current developments in the Arab region, expressing the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party leadership's satisfaction with the USSR's support for the Arab nation's just struggle. He also praised the development of cooperation between the Syrian and Soviet women, cooperation which has achieved positive results at the level of bilateral cooperation and joint open action in a way that will serve women's struggle for equality, progress, and peace. Mrs Tereshkova praised the existing relations between Syria and the USSR in general, and between the women in both countries in particular. She explained that these relations are embodied in all spheres and at all levels.

Commentaries View Lebanses Talks, Mideast Situation

Reconciliation Talks Viewed

JN101422 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] It has been decided that the second round of the Lebanese national dialogue will be held in Lausanne next Monday. The first round was held in Geneva and resulted in a general Lebanese national approval of two basic issues — namely, the Arab identity of Lebanon and the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, which infringes on Lebanon's rights, sovereignty, and independence, and which is contrary to Lebanon's commitments and Arab relations. The Lebanese people's agreement on these two issues opened the door for solving the chronic Lebanese crisis and became the proper basis on which all the Lebanese people should meet to pave the way for national reconciliation and to establish a nationalist Lebanese solution for the Lebanese issues and complications that make up the Lebanese crisis — a solution that will eventually remove the Lebanese problems from the market of haggling and from the U.S.-Israeli blackmail.

The issue of Lebanon's Arab affiliation and identity has imposed itself on the dialogue conference as basic facts that are taken for granted and that cannot be subjected to any discussion except by the Israeli agents and the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs. This is because Lebanon, in terms of history, geography, construction, culture, thought, human formation, relations, and interests must be Arab. Because this issue of Lebanon's Arab affilation and identity is understood, the hesitation in abrogating the 17 May agreement, heeding the deceptive U.S. promises and military provoications, and fearing the Israeli threats were factors that only delayed the convening of the second round of the Lebanese national dialogue and inflamed the situation.

Now that the Lebanese Government has abrogated the agreement, it is neither important nor beneficial to be concerned with the past. It is important to look forward to the future and to cooperate to shape this future in harmony with the Lebanese people's interest in order to preserve Lebanon's rights, independence, sovereignty, the unity of its territory and people, and its Arab affiliation and cooperation with its sister state Syria, and the rest of the Arab countries. It is also important and beneficial to draw up strategies and tactics for the Lebanese nationlist action during the next stage in order to drive out the Israeli invaders from all the Lebanese territory, unconditionally, and without allowing them to realize any gains from their invasion. Thus, the United Stated will be prevented from using Lebanon as a military base for its forces and plans that are hostile to Syria and the Arabs, and from using Lebanon as a tool to pressure the Arabs into accepting the U.S. and Israeli terms.

If the Lebanese people agree on a nationalist Lebanese solution for their problems and formulate a Lebanese plan to protect Lebanon and entrench the factors of its unity and entity in order to realize justice and equality among the Lebanese communities, and to uphold the motto of Lebanese independence — namely that Lebanon will not be a base for imperialism or passage for imperialism to the other Arab countries, they will acquired a great moral and material strength that will guarantee for them the realization of their future aims.

When the Lebanese people agree, they will agree only on a nationalist Lebanese position. In light of the facts and the struggling forces in the region, this Lebanese position must be in harmony with Syria's security and national interests and with the Arab nation's intersts. When the Lebanese people agree on the Lebanese nationlist position, they will find Syria at their side with all the means available to it. As President Hafiz al-Asad has said: Syria will stand by Lebanon as it always did in order to strengthen Lebanon's independence, unity, and Arabism. The Lebanese will be enjoying the support of the Arab nation's masses, its national and pan-Arab forces, and a all the supporters of justice and freedom in the world.

ATH-THAWRAH on Lebanon

JN100801 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The United States and the Strategic Dilemma in the Region" *ATH-THAWRAH* says: No matter what new plans or strategies the United States submits in the Middle East region, it will not be capable of extricating itself from the dilemma it is experiencing. Neither will it succeed in salvaging its policy from the state of collapse which is pursuing it everywhere in the region, because the defeat that the United States has sustained is first of all a strategic defeat, as ranking U.S. officials have admitted. From this premise, any talk about a plan or an attempt to change this state of affairs will merely be an act of deception. When the United States leaks information or news about its intention to submit an initiative or a new strategy in the Middle East, it does so in order to market its policy and in an attempt to appear as if it is still able to deal with the region's crises and problems. As past, present, and future events demonstrate, any U.S. plan in this direction will only serve Israel's interests. This is what President Reagan did when he submitted his ill-reputed initiative in September 1981. In the wake of that initiative, U.S. military, financial, and economic assistance flooded Israel; and also in its wake, Israel invaded Lebanon, and destroyed its cities and villages with U.S. participation. The same scenario may recur now. Any talk about a U.S. strategic plan in the Middle East may be the green light for Israel to prepare itself for a new aggression against Arab land.

It is no coincidence for the reports to stress that the core of this plan will be how to deal with the Syrian issue, given that the United States will seek to mitigate its Lebanese defeat by forming new military and political axes in the Middle East in order to overcome this defeat and impose a new fait accompli in the region. These matters may be within U.S. calculations, but the results will not be in the U.S. interest. Syria is determined to confront all capitulatory conspiracies and schemes seeking to tighten imperialist control on the Arab region. Syria possesses all the requisites for such a confrontation, as its intensifying role of struggle on the regional and international level enable it to perform any military tasks of this kind. The United States, which has tried the logic of force and aggression in Lebanon, must relinquish such logic and frankly admit that the peoples' will cannot be subdued by warships, destroyers, and aircraft. The people's will always will embody the voice of truth and the equation of freedom and independence in the region.

TISHRIN Commentary

JN120852 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Press review]

[Text] On the Lebanese national dialogue conference in Lausanne, the newspaper *TISHRIN* writes: The Lebanese went to Lausanne to resume national dialogue amid the Arab masses' hopes for the attainment of a national accord, which struggler President Hafiz al-Asad described as the only road for the salvation of Lebanon. These hopes by the Arab masses are not void of apprehension regarding what is going to take place in Lausanne; an apprehension that Lebanon may remain as it is. This is due to the fact that the fighting which has erupted on the contact lines in Lebanon during the past few days is a mark on the road to Lausanne, and it is not a mark which calls for much optimism because it is not conducive to the sincere intentions which are supposed to mean a strong desire aimed at giving national dialogue its natural dimension through the attainment of the national accord aspired to by all the Arabs, particularly Syria.

Some sides, particularly those wagering on an Israeli role, may be working for the escalation fo turmoil in the security situation in order to improve their negotiating positions. However, this again is not conducive to the good intentions that should be demonstrated for the sake of achieving a national accord, particularly since all the Lebanese sides have realized that Syria is determined as ever before to help all the Lebanese without exception in order to achieve national accord and rescue Lebanon from destruction, woes, and bloodshed. Therefore, all the Lebanese are urgently requested to continue to rise to the level of their historic responsibility.

The paper adds: It is obvious that Syria's stand toward Lebanon and Syria's accomplishment of its task to lead Lebanon to national accord are closely connected with Syria's greater task on the pan-Arab level. This task is toppling the trend of peace with Israel, particularly the Camp David accords and the subsequent restrictions which deprived the Arab homeland of the impact and role of great Egypt, in the same manner as the 17 May agreement was toppled in Lebanon. The clear link between the two tasks stems from the national Arab campaign against sabotaging Lebanon and drowning it with blood, which is the declared stand of the U.S. President whose key task is reshaping the situation in the Arab homeland according to the Reagan plan. Therefore, it is natural that rescuing Lebanon from subversion is the key to inflicting defeat on Reagan's plan throughout the positions of confrontation between the national Arab liberation movement and the imperialist-Zionist-Arab reactionary trend.

Therefore, the main task of the Arab nationalists does not only lie on the road to Lausanne, but also on the road from Lausanne to the Arab region. We are not divulging a secret if we say that the Lebanese sides' return from Lebanon with the means by which they can rescue Lebanon, as embodied in a program fro political and social reform which they compete to apply in letter and spirit, will be a weapon for the Arab nationalists, particularly in Egypt, in order to terminate the Camp David accords. All the Arab citizens, as 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said, direct their minds, hearts, and feelings to Cairo, wondering whether Egypt will be as big in its national decision as Beirut was. *TISHRIN* continues: The United States, Israel, and the horses of Arab capitulation wanted to drown Lebanon with blood in order to guarantee the peddling of the capitulatory plans. The opposite is now happening. The capitulatory plans are collapsing and losing credibility. Lebanon is recovering. It can and must receover and achieve accord. 'Arafat and Husayn are seeking a pilgrimage on the road to capitulation at a time when people are returning. Their pilgrimage is forgotten, renounced, and blocked because the people are forsaking it. Even those blemished by Camp David keep making statements on the future of the homeland which express the bankruptcy and retreat of the U.S. settlement trend. *TISHRIN* concludes: Therefore, all the Lebanese are urgently required to continue to rise to the level of their historic responsibility — a level whose first signs began with the abrogation of the agreement with Israel. Thus, the Lebanese will have contributed their share to the pan-Arab mobilization organized by Syria for the sake of toppling the trend of peace with Israel and Arab capitulation in all its fields, branches, and manifestations, even in the more vicious link of Camp David.

Attempts to Disrupt Talks

JN111714 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

Text] The second phase of the Lebanese national reconciliation conference is due to begin tomorrow amid very delicate and sensitive circumstances through which the fraternal Lebanese country is passing as a result of the insistence by the United States and the Israeli enemy that they be compensated for their heavy losses in Lebanon and the region following the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. The fall of that agreement was a fatal blow to all the aggressive plans that the United States and Israel drew up with the aim of turning Lebanon into a joint U.S.-Zionist protectorate and a base of aggression against Syria and the entire Arab region. However, this does not mean that the two poles of the U.S.- Israeli aggression have laid down their arms and accepted the fait accompli. There are substitute plans as well as new means and tools aimed at realizing the same objective — dealing a blow to the Lebanese people's unity and territorial integrity, and then renewing attempts to dominate every aspect of Lebanon's official decisionmaking concerning Lebanon's people, their future, and their destiny.

Now that the Lebanese national reconciliation conference has begun, there are obvious attempts to disrupt that conference from within through proposals, and even exceptional and strange demands that contradict the Lebanese people's unity and territorial integrity. These proposals conflict with the fact that Lebanon is for all the Lebanese, and that the factors unifying them are stronger than all attempts to separate, to fragment, and to strike at their national unity. The partitionist forces, which are linked to the United States and Israel, are trying to entrench this trend by undermining the security situation on the largest possible scale in order to aggravate the situation, exacerbate the atmosphere of the dialogue conference, and encircle the victory that the Lebanese people realized by abrogating the 17 May agreement. We should tell those who are still trying to cover the sun with a sieve and stop the wheel of history with small sticks: Several months ago, with the protection of the U.S. vessels and guns, you tried to challenge the reality of Arab Lebanon and its genuine pan-Arab affiliation by peddling the 17 May agreement. However, you reaped the fruits of disappointment and failure. Now, you should learn the lesson and refrain from directing your spears at Lebanon's unity, especially since the spears of those who are much more stronger than you were destroyed on the rock of this country's independence, sovereignty, freedom, and national honor. Fraternal Lebanon's people have achieved a real victory over the imperialist and Zionist forces. They managed to entrench Arab Lebanon's reality and to undermine the May agreement through their generous sacrifices and Syria's unlimited support for them in the fiercest battle against the wildest forces.

In light of the new fait accompli, there is no longer any possibility for any attempt to disunite and fragment the struggling Lebanese people. Lebanon's unity is a reality as is its Arabism. Any attempt to harm it will be doomed to failure. Syria will continue its efforts to support Lebanon's unity. As for the Lebanese people, they are fully aware of how to preserve their unity and foil all plans to partition and fragment Lebanon. As for the enemies of unity and the advocates of partitioning, they will never find a place in Lebanon or under its sky.

AL-BA'TH on U.S. Role in Sudan

PM091423 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 6 Mar 84 p 2

[Jbarah al-Barghuti "With the Events" column: "The Sudanese Spot in U.S. Policy"]

[Text] The United States is looking for new tension spots in the Middle East as part of its reaction to the failure it suffered in Lebanon. The CIA has chosen the Arab homeland to be the scene of its conspiracies. It has now found in Sudan and in Ja'far Numayri's regime something to compensate it for the failure of the U.S. policy in Lebanon. The Sudanese people, who are suffering from misery, starvation, and Numayri's repression, have decided to shape their country in a manner satisfactory to them and which would make them the vital link between the Arab homeland and the African Continent.

The United States, which has turned the Nile valley with its Egyptian north and Sudanese south into the field of its military operations and a location for its bases and maneuvers as well as into a market for its unwanted goods, is refusing to allow the Sudanese people to exercise their will in building their country and maintaining their Arab origin and African relations. For this reason the CIA has decided that Sudanese territory should become a springboard for conspiratorial activities against the Africans after it ensured Ja'far Numayri's conspiracy against his Arab nation when he became the second man to commit himself to Camp David after the deceased as-Sadat.

The airlift between California and Khartoum is only a beginning to the engulfment of Sudan in the U.S. fires that are burning in every place on the globe. The conflict is clear and needs no explanation: It is between progress and imperialism which is allied with reactionary regimes everywhere. For this reason the United States is throwing its military weight around in Sudan. U.S. diplomacy is seeking to turn the Arab homeland into a ball of fire that will devour Arab capabilities and Arab bodies. The United States is Israel's partner in the fires raging on Lebanese territory and the partner of the Somali regime in its actions against the Somali people and their Arab character. It is also behind the fanning of the flames of the Iraq-Iran war and is playing a role in conspiring against the Arab Gulf and the Oman coast. Now that U.S. diplomacy has spread blood in most Arab areas it has found in Numayri an obedient tool to Arabize the conflict and create pretexts for its military intervention.

In the name of Camp David the United States is occupying Sinai and parts of Egypt, in the name of defending Lebanon it concentrated its warships on the Lebanese coast, and in the name of defending its interests it has subjected the Gulf and Oman to its direct control. Therefore, does not its airlift to Khartoum in the name of defending Ja'far Numayri mean interference in Arab affairs and a conspiracy against the Sudanese people which is part of the greater conspiracy against the Arab nation?

Reportage on 11 March Cabinet Session

Shamir Appeals to USSR

TA110747 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0738 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has called on the leaders of the Soviet Union to open the country's gates to Jews who wish to immigrate to Israel. He was speaking at the beginning of the weekly Cabinet session, on the occasion of the beginning of the week of solidarity with Soviet Jews. Let us now listen to an excerpt of his speech:

[Begin Shamir recording] Let us tell the Soviet leaders today: There is no reason or rational justification why you should continue to harass millions of Jews who are determined to link their fate with their homeland. This is a right which you have recognized and granted to numerous people and smaller national groupings ['amamim] in your country. Many people in the world, Jews and non-Jews alike, are expecting you to change your policy, to put an end to the anti-Semitic war against the Jewish people, and to open wide the gates of the Soviet Union to every Jew who wants to join his brethren in Israel. We are hoping that the many expressions of solidarity will speed up the redemption of our kinsmen in the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Report on Cabinet Session

TA111033 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1025 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Here is a report from the Cabinet's weekly session: The Cabinet began discussing today the plan to transfer the handling of the border crossing points with Lebanon to a civilian authority. Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor clarified at the end of the session that this discussion is a follow-up to a previous decision the Cabinet made on the matter and has nothing to do with the latest political developments or any other plans for an IDF redeployment in Lebanon. This report was filed by our political correspondent, 'Oz Frankel.

Meridor: No Redeployment Decision

TA111159 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Report by David Essing — recorded]

[Excerpt] Today's Cabinet meeting lasted only a couple of hours because the ministers attended a memorial service for Israeli fighters whose burial place is unknown. The unexpected redeployment of Israeli forces in south Lebanon was not taken up today. However, Chief of Staff Moshe Levi and other top officers were at the Cabinet session. The Cabinet did discuss the transfer of border crossings from military to civilian hands. However, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor says this is not linked to the redeployment.

[Begin Meridor recording] Two different subjects: Our deployment in Lebanon is one thing, and as you know and as we have said many times, our deployment in Lebanon is destined to secure the northern border of Israel; the other question whether the border passages which we have opened in 1982 will be taken care of by military personnel or civilian personnel, is an internal question of Israel and has nothing to do with the former question. [end recording]

The Cabinet secretary says there is still no decision in principle to redeploy. When the army has finalized its plans, they would then be discussed by the government.

Shamir, Sharon Meet To Discuss Dispute

TA111216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister and Minister Ari'el Sharon conferred this afternoon against the background of the bitter exchanges of accusations. Our political correspondent points out that Sharon had accused the Cabinet of slowing down the settling process in order to appease the United States. Mr Shamir termed these accusations a lie.

Further on Meeting

TA121115 Tel Aviv 'Al HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Mar 84 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Moti Basoq]

[Text] Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon yesterday met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to present his personal views as to how the IDF should redeploy in Lebanon.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser on communications and foreign press affairs, yesterday firmly claimed that Sharon's sharp criticism of the government's settlement policy, levelled last week, was not discussed at all in yesterday's talk.

As may be recalled, Sharon claimed that the government had submitted to U.S. pressures and has frozen settlement in the territories. In reaction to that, Shamir's office stated that Minister Sharon's remarks are totally unfounded.

Yesterday's tete-a-tete was initiated by Ari'el Sharon. Sharon wanted to brief the prime minister on his impressions concerning Lebanon following his visit there last week. The minister also wanted to convince Shamir, prior to the Cabinet's discussion, that the IDF should remain along the Al-Awwali. In Sharon's opinion, any IDF withdrawal will only exacerbate the problems and will make the defense of the Galilee settlements more difficult. According to Pazner, the Shamir-Sharon talk was conducted in a good atmosphere.

Cabinet Moods on IDF Redeployment Assessed

TA101948 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Our political correspondent assesses that the Cabinet will decide about an IDF redeployment in Lebanon at the very earliest within a few weeks. Several ministers have stated that at the Cabinet session tomorrow they will seek to prevent public announcements about the IDF's redeployment in Lebanon. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen is in the studio to sum up the moods prevailing in the Cabinet on this issue:

Well, also this evening there is no answer to the two questions that have remained unanswered for the last 2 days: When will a decision be made about a withdrawal from Lebanon? Which line will we withdraw to?

A government source told us: The defense establishment has not yet submitted a consolidated plan for a redeployment which would assure us of a situation better than the current one. Were such a plan to be submitted, the prime minister would adopt it and immediately submit it to the Cabinet for its approval.

The plans drawn up by the defense establishment have changed several times in the last few months. At one time it was thought that we could rely on the Lebanese Army; later there was talk about UNIFIL serving as a buffer. Now, there is once again talk about local forces; Haddad's soldiers and Shi‘ites with a limited IDF presence in a southern strip between the Al-Litani and Az-Zahrani Rivers.

The defense establishment continues to draw various alternatives, to await the reconciliation conference in Lausanne and, at the same time, to prepare the field to enable the establishment of some kind of local force in southern Lebanon.

The picture in the eastern sector where the Syrian Army is stationed is not clear. Therefore, it may be that when a decision is made about a withdrawal it will be carried out in stages: initially in the coastal area and only later in the eastern area, if a direct or indirect agreement is reached with the Syrians.

Most ministers agree that the IDF must withdraw soon and deploy in a security area with a minimal presence. Ministers Levi, Hammer, Uzan and Tzipori want such a decision to be made promptly. Ministers Sharon and Ne‘eman believe that the IDF must remain on the Al-Awwali line. The other ministers will probably endorse the defense establishment's plan when it is completed, a plan whose practical meaning is a de facto annexation of southern Lebanon to guarantee the main achievement of the war, that of no more Katyushas being fired upon northern Israel.

Redeployment Not Debated

TA110551 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Report by political correspondent Shim‘on Schiffer]

[Text] The defense establishment has not yet finished drawing up plans for the IDF redeployment in Lebanon and this is why the Cabinet has delayed its debate, Cabinet sources explained today. The sources said that at issue is a permanent redeployment for an extended period, hence the caution and the need to wait until the plans are completed — a matter of a few weeks.

Either way, we would not be surprised if ultimately the recommendation is to redeploy along a line Israel controlled prior to the war in Lebanon. Several ministers have already expressed their views on this. Ministers Zvulun Hammer and Mordekhay Tzipori support the minimalist plan, which has already been presented to them. If the army believes that there is no need to remain in Jabal al-Baruk to guarantee security, then we support this view, the two ministers were heard to say on several occasions.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said this weekend in an interview with the "Weekly Newsreel" that the IDF General Staff Headquarters will determine the number of forces involved in the redployment and where the line will be established. As for his remarks that the Cabinet will decide on this soon, no one in either the prime minister's office or the defense minister's office could be heard to support this view.

This morning at the Cabinet session Minister Avraham Sharir will demand that the public debate waged by his colleagues over the IDF redeployment be ended. He told us he believes this is detrimental to security and is hampering the Cabinet's freedom of decision. Any public debate on such delicate issues that pertain to security, he said, constitute a direct threat and put the lives of IDF soldiers in jeopardy.

Soviet ‘Operational Bases’ Set Up in Al-Biqa‘

TA110921 Tel Aviv HA‘ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union fears the continuing internal struggle in Syria and its implications and wants to accelerate a decision by President al-Asad to settle it. This is also the main topic that will be discussed during the visit to Damascus by Geydar Aliyev, Politburo member and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Aliyev arrived in Damascus yesterday and immediately met for talks with Syrian Foreign Affairs Minister ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Travellers reaching Beirut from Damascus yesterday, said that tension in Syria is continuing and that the forces of Syrian strongman, Rif‘at al-Asad, are surrounding Damascus and are present on the streets.

Arab sources disclosed yesterday that Soviet intelligence officers have recently established two operational bases separately from the Syrians in the area of Dhar al-Baydar and Shtawrah in the Lebanese Al-Biqa‘ in cooperation with leftist opposition groups in Lebanon.

According to the sources, the Soviets want to strengthen cooperation with leftist Lebanese groups regardless of the Syrians.

To this end, Soviet officers recently met with Lebanese Parliamentarian (Zahr al-Khatib), as well as with Junblatt's military aide, who is a graduate of the staff and command school in Moscow and who is known for his good ties with the Soviets.

Pierre al-Jumayyil Cautions IDF on Withdrawal

TA111029 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Mar 84 p 1

[Report from Switzerland by Freddy Rom]

[Text] "An immediate withdrawal from Lebanon by the IDF would be a catastrophe," Pierre al-Jumayyil, the father of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, told me. He also asked: "If you withdraw, who will expel the Syrians from Lebanon?"

In an interview with *YEDI'OT AHARONOT*, Pierre al-Jumayyil also expressed pessimism about the chances of success of the reconciliation conference which opens in Lausanne tomorrow. Asked whether the conference might conclude with an agreement among the Lebanese factions on a new division of the government pie, he said: "Three-quarters of our territory is ruled by occupying forces. Before we regulate relations among the Lebanese factions, the Syrians, the Palestinians, and the Israelis should withdraw from our land. All foreign forces should leave Lebanon simultaneously."

IDF Allows Refugee Aid Ships To Unload in Sidon

TA120816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Since the attack in the port of Sidon, the area has been closed to traffic. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports, however, that the IDF allowed refugee aid ships to unload their cargo yesterday.

Government Protests Actions by 6th Fleet Aircraft

TA121146 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by aviation affairs correspondent Dan Arkin]

[Text] Israel has submitted an official letter of protest to the United States regarding disturbances by 6th Fleet aircraft to both civilian and military aircraft on the air routes linking Israel with other countries.

Israel is demanding [tova'at] coordination with the Americans to prevent the planes from coming too close to one another. There are indications that this demand [tevi'a] will be accepted. Transport Minister Hayim Corfu sent a diplomatic note, via the Foreign Ministry and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, to the U.S. State Department and through it to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The Defense Ministry is also handling the coordination of military air traffic via the Pentagon.

So far dozens of cases of 6th Fleet aircraft disturbing Israeli aircraft en route to Israel have been recorded. In addition, there have also been penetrations by U.S. aircraft into Israel's air space. Israeli planes cannot communicate with the 6th Fleet aircraft and Israel therefore demands [tova'at] that a coordination system be set up to prevent aircraft of the two countries from endangering each other.

Request for Additional U.S. Aid Withdrawn

TA120738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Israel has withdrawn its request for $20 million in additional U.S. aid which was to have been used to finance Israeli projects in the Thirld World. The suggestion to give Israel this aid was first raised by congressman Howard Berman. Congressional sources say that in the last few days Berman has received hints to remove the request from the agenda.

Our correspondent in Washington Razi Barqay reports that it looks as though Israel had concluded that the administration would interpret the request as an attempt to receive additional aid and it feared a rejection. Our correspondent reports that Israel will attempt to find other means to acquire the money in order to finance science and agriculture projects in African and Latin American countries.

IDF Patrol Attacked With Molotov Cocktail in Gaza

TA111011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol in Gaza's main street about an hour ago. No one was hurt and no damage was caused.

PFLP Claims Responsibility

TA112015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] The PFLP terrorist organization has assumed responsibility for the explosion which occurred in the main street of Gaza this morning. This was announced in a statement issued by the organization's headquarters in Damascus today. It was reported at midday today that the incident caused no casualties.

Suspects in Ashdod Bus Bombing Remanded

TA110753 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] Ashdod (ITIM) — Eight Arab men arrested on suspicion of involvement in last Wednesday's bus bombing here were remanded on Friday for eight days by the local magistrates court. Three persons were killed in the explosion and nine wounded. A police investigator told Judge Avraham Sason that the eight are suspected of planting the booby-trapped grenade in the bus.

The eight men are also suspected of belonging both to a terrorist organization and a criminal gang, the investigator said. Two other suspects are minors, whose remand was extended for seven days last Thursday. The names of the suspects have been banned from publication.

Suspects Detained in Attack on Ramallah Bus

TA111317 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Mar 84 p 11

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Two students from a famous Jerusalem yeshiva were detained on Friday on suspicion of participating in planning the terrorist act against the Arab bus in Ramallah, and also of possible active participation in the act itself. The two were detained on Friday afternoon, just before the beginning of the Sabbath. It is suspected that the gang detained in the act also perpetrated the attack on the Islamic University near Hebron.

The investigators suspect that in recent months about 20 youths got together, most of them new immigrants from the United States and some of whom had either served or were currently serving in the IDF. The aim of this group was to attack Arabs and damage their property in revenge for anti-Jewish terrorist activities. Some of the suspects have already managed to leave the country. According to suspicions, part of the group dealt with the operational aspect while the other part dealt with public relations [pirsumi].

Netherlands Information Office Closed in Jerusalem

TA111043 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The Netherlands Embassy's Information Office in Jerusalem has been closed down for budgetary reasons. The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry was informed by the embassy of this move. The Netherlands is making cuts not only in Israel but at 17 other missions worldwide. The Netherlands Embassy in Israel was transferred from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv following the enactment of the "Jerusalem Law" by the Knesset. It has been learned from authoritative Netherlands sources that the number of diplomatic representatives in the Netherlands Embassy in Tel Aviv will also be reduced in the future.

Minister Pat Departs for 2-Day Egypt Visit

TA090943 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0932 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat left for Cairo today to participate in the International Trade Fair, in which Israel is participating for the fourth time. Speaking at the airport prior to his departure, Minister Pat said the visit is of great significance because this is the first time the Egyptian Government has invited a minister to participate in the official opening of the fair. Minister Pat hopes to expand ties between Israel and Egypt in the talks he will hold with economic ministers in Cairo.

Pat Interviewed on Visit

TA110611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] In the presence of the Egyptian prime minister, the Cairo International Trade Fair opened yesterday. Twenty-eight companies are represented in the Israeli pavilion, which many people have visited. Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat is there as the guest of the Egyptian Government. We called him this morning and he told us of his impressions:

[Begin Pat recording] Although I have been here only since Friday afternoon, so far I have managed to meet with Mr Mustafa Khalil for a very long political discussion, as well as with the agricultural minister. This morning I will meet with Butrus Ghali, Mustafa Kamil as-Sa'd Ibrahim — who is the economy and foreign trade minister — and Kamal Hasan 'Ali, prior to a luncheon being given in my honor and that of several other guests by Ibrahim.

I hope that, despite such a brief visit, we may be able to somewhat strengthen bilateral trade relations. I heard a lot of talk about good will, but whether this is translated into actions and bilateral trade truly develops is difficult to predict. At any rate, we came here to participate in the opening of the fair at the invitation of the Egyptian Government, which was not the case in previous years; this time they did invite us and this perhaps heralds greater openness. [end recording]

Syria Urges Egypt To Cancel Camp David Accord

JN112115 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1440 GMT 11 Mar 84

["Observation" by 'Izra Shirazi]

[Text] Since the abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, official Damascus and its media have been creating an uproar and hailing this abrogation, considering it as an obvious and historic victory. We will not discuss whether the abrogation of the agreement is a victory or not, because days will decide this matter and clarify whether this victory is imaginary and temporary, or not. He who follows Damascus official statements and political comments in this regard will realize that the ecstacy of victory has urged Damascus rulers to act as if they have become the only leader of the Arab world and the entire Arab nation, and as if the Arab governments must follow them or submit to their instructions and terrorism as the Lebanese Government has done.

During the banquet that he hosted last night in honor of his USSR guest, Geydar Aliyev, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam called on Egypt, on behalf of the entire Arab nation from the Gulf to the ocean, to follow Lebanon's example and cancel the Camp David accords as Lebanon has canceled the 17 May agreement. Khaddam urged Egypt not to fear the abrogation of the Camp David accords in light of the success of the young and weak Lebanon, as he put it. Thus, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam assured Egypt, which is the greatest and strongest Arab state, and stressed that it has nothing to fear regarding the abrogation of the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Israel.

We are sure that by this call, Khaddam is not ignorant, but that he completely ignores the fact that Egypt has willingly concluded a peace treaty with Israel and that Egypt is committed to this treaty, not out of love for the Israeli people but out of the belief that peace is a higher vital interest for the Egyptian people. We are also sure that Khaddam, by this aforementioned call, is not ignorant but ignores the negative and serious consequenses that the abrogation of the peace treaty with Israel would bring on all the people of the region.

In light of the above, the big question is whether 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the rest of the Damascus rulers believe that Egypt is Lebanon and that Egypt —government and people —will follow their negative and destructive policy, or that Egypt will submit to their instructions and terrorism as the Lebanese Government has done. It is a government that has sacrificed the real interests of its people and missed the last opportunity to restore the Lebanese people's dignity, independence, and sovereignty.

Egypt Reportedly Approved Limited Move Into Lebanon

TA090750 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by Yosef Go'el]

[Text] An Egyptian delegation that was in Israel less than a month before the Israel Defence Forces went into Lebanon in June 1982 to talk to Labour Party leaders in effect agreed to a short surgical operation against the PLO along the lines of the 1978 Litani Campaign.

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, who was a member of that delegation together with Mustafa Khalil and others, told *THE JERUSALEM POST* this week that the Labour Party leaders had promised them that Labour would not support an Israeli strike into Lebanon disproportionate to the aggression against Israel.

"We were given to understand that Labour would oppose anything beyond what the 1978 Litani Operation had been — going in, doing what had to be done, leaving Lebanese soil quickly and completely.

"We hoped it would be limited to 30-40 kilometres. Instead, we felt ourselves deceived by Labour's support for the major operation that developed."

Ghali said the Egyptian delegation had met with Labour leaders Shim'on Peres, Abba Eban and Hayim Bar-Lev for five days in May 1982. The purpose of the meeting, according to Ghali, was to present the Egyptian plan for a second stage in the peace process following the total Israel withdrawal from Sinai on April 25, 1982.

Since then the Egyptians have cooled the normalization process that in Israeli eyes was to have been the heart of the peace with Egypt.

Asked whether, in light of the tacit Egyptian agreement to a surgical Israeli strike against the PLO in Lebanon, Egypt would today agree to a thawing of the normalization freeze if Israel withdrew its main forces from Lebanon but continued to maintain a small force for periodic interdictory strikes, Ghali replied "No."

He declared: "Egypt could not agree to the compromising of Arab sovereignty on Arab land. Too many of us are fearful that the Israel Government's true intention is to turn southern Lebanon into a new West Bank."

Ghali also said that an additional Egyptian condition for the renewal of the normalization process was the renewal of talks with the Palestinians on a comprehensive solution.

The Egyptian diplomat said a realistic assessment was that Israel would not get out of Lebanon before a new election. "And even in the event of the establishment of a Labour government, we are not at all certain that Israel would withdraw even then," he said.

Labor, Ghali Deny Report

TA110741 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Both the Israel Labour Party and a senior Egyptian official have denied a report in Friday's *JERUSALEM POST* that Egypt gave tacit approval to a limited Israel Defence Forces strike against the PLO in southern Lebanon before the operation began in June 1982.

"This is not true," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali on Friday told the ASSOCIATED PRESS in Cairo, referring to remarks attributed to him in that day's *POST*.

"I never said anything smacking of tacit approval," Ghali said. He said *THE POST* correspondent "distorted my remarks, and I don't know whether this was done in good faith or bad faith."

"What I told the correspondent was that we were very much frustrated by the passive attitude of the (Israeli) Labour Party towards the invasion."

In Tel Aviv yesterday, the Labour Party denied that either it or a delegation from Egypt's ruling party expressed support for an Israeli military initiative in Lebanon in political talks held between them on the eve of the June 1982 invasion of that country.

The subject was not even raised by either side, said party spokesman Yosi Beilin, in response to the version of the talks attributed to Ghali, who was part of the National Democratic Party delegation to Israel in May-June 1982.

France's Minister Fabius Arrives for Talks

TA110530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] The French industry and trade minister [title as heard], Laurent Fabius, has arrived in Israel for a 3-day visit. He will meet with Prime Minister Shamir, Commerce and Industry Minister Pat, and other leaders.

The visiting French official was met at Ben-Gurion Airport by Finance Minister Kohen-Orgad.

Official Greek Delegation Arrives for Visit

TA111233 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Greece has recently not been too kind to us and in terms of bilateral relations, has certainly not spoiled us. Today, however, we may be witnessing a change, as an official Greek Government delegation has arrived in Israel as the guest of the Foreign Ministry and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The members of the delegation came to participate in the inauguration of Hellenic House on the Mt Scopus campus of the university. The delegation is headed by the director general of the Greek Culture and Science Ministry, Konstantinos Alavanos. Our correspondent Dan Eshel was at Ben-Gurion Airport, and he was among those who welcomed the delegation.

[Begin recording] [Eshel] For the first time since the state was established, an official Greek Government delegation has come to Israel. Konstantinos Alavanos emphasized that he is not a political figure, adding that this time no clauses to the Greece-Israel cultural agreement will be added. At the same time, this is an important visit, he said.

The inauguration of Hellenic House is an important contribution to the improvement of understanding and relations between the two nations and the two cultures, the director general of the Greek Culture and Science Ministry said.

Israel hopes that additional visits will follow this official one, so that the bilateral relations will be strengthened.

ALGERIA

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD111936 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this afternoon arrived in Algiers on an official visit to Algeria that will last 3 days, at the invitation of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs. He met Velayati at Hourai Boumedienne International Airport, accompanied by the Algerian and Iranian ambassadors.

In a brief press statement, the Iranian minister said that his visit was in response to the visit paid by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi to Tehran, pointing out that he will hold talks with Algerian officials on bilateral relations, the means of strengthening them, and the region's problems.

It is worth noting that Dr Velyati will hold a series of political talks with Dr Ibrahimi and will be received by Chadli Bendjedid, president and secretary general of the FLN Party. He will also meet with members of the Politburo, including Brothers Rabih Bitat, chairman of the People's National Assembly, and Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, official in charge of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat.

Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives 10 March

LD102142 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Eftekhar Jahromi arrived at Houari Boumediene International Airport this afternoon. He was welcomed at the airport by Brother Noureddine Harbi, deputy minister in charge of cooperation, and by the two countries' ambassadors.

Joint Algerian-Bulgarian Communique Reported

LD111146 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers, 11/3 (APS) — At the end of the visit to Algeria of the Bulgarian Communist Party (PCB), at the invitation of the FLN party, an Algerian-Bulgarian joint communique has been released.

Dealing with the international situation, the two delegations noted that it remains disturbed and permanently aggravated by the aggressive policy of the international imperialism which continues to increase its pressures and its interference, which multiplies destabilization attempts and [words indistinct] tension and increases its military interventions. This aggression may lead to a nuclear conflict which would [words indistinct] of humanity.

Examining the situation in the Middle East, the National Liberation Front Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party expressed their deep concern before the extension and the aggravation of tension due to the aggressive policy of Israel's Zionist regime.

Regarding the situation in Africa, the two delegations expressed their great concern over the neo-colonialist aims and the strategy of imperialism, which aims at countering the struggle of national liberation movements and compromising the stability and the development efforts of African countries. The two delegations reaffirmed their solidarity with the national liberation struggles led by the Namibian and the South African peoples under SWAPO and ANC leadership, denounced all the imperialist maneuvers which aim at imposing a neo-colonial solution to the Namibian problem and at countering the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

The two delegations are highly concerned by the situation prevailing in northwest Africa stand for a solution to the Western Sahara problem on the basis of the Nonaligned Movement's recommendations as well as UN and OAU resolutions, particularly the 19th summit for the exercise, by the Western Sahara people, of its right to self determination. [sentence as received].

The two parties condemned the U.S. intervention in Grenada and expressed their full solidarity with peoples from El Salvador, Chile, Nicaragua and other Latin American countries in their struggle against dictatorship.

The two delegations highly appreciated the importance of the Nonaligned Movement in international relations and its positive contribution to the consolidation of national independence, the achievement of the new world economic order, and the establishment of universal peace.

At the end of their talks, the two delegations noted that the talks between the National Liberation Front Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party represented a decisive importance for the strengthening of the Algerian-Bulgarian friendship and cooperation, and for the development of relations between the two countries.

Rwandan Leader Ends Visit; Protocol Signed

EA081335 Kigali Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The secretary-general of the MRND [National Revolution Development Movement], militant Bonaventure Habimana, yesterday concluded a visit he began last Saturday to Algeria at the invitation of the Algerian ruling party, the FLN. At the end of the visit, a draft protocol on cooperation covering the 1984-1985 period was signed between the FLN and the MRND.

The draft protocol calls for consultation and dialogue between the FLN and the MRND, and for a regular exchange of high-level delegations. The two parties agreed to encourage mass organizations and establish contacts on a regular and intensive basis. They also agreed to begin an exchange of documentation and information. In order to encourage bilateral understanding they will favor exchange visits by journalists from central information organs to write reports. The MRND and the FLN agreed to encourage the development and consolidation of cooperation between Rwanda and Algeria and to set up friendship organizations between the Rwandan and Algerian people.

The draft protocol will be followed by a specific agreement enabling cooperation between the FLN and the MRND to be extended and made more concrete.

LIBYA

Connection With London Explosions Denied
LD111751 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Mar (JANA) — The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has asserted that the Jamahiriyah has no connection whatsoever with the explosions that occurred recently in the British capital.

The committee today asked the British ambassador in Tripoli to submit clarifications about the statements attributed to British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, who pointed an accusing finger at the Jamahiriyah with regard to these incidents.

The committee has noticed that recently the Jamahiriyah had been subjected to a deliberate, malicious and racist campaign in the British information media. It stressed that this campaign, which has intensified and escalated, is a cover-up for the British stance that encourages the stray dogs that have committed crimes against the Libyan Arab people. The committee said that the British authorities have refused to hand over these elements, "who were tried on charges of theft, economic corruption and carrying out criminal terrorist actions against the people's authority in Libya," according to arrest warrants issued by "Interpol," the international police.

The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has told the British ambassador that, while affirming the development of relations with the British people, it will not be responsible for or ensure [as received] the incidents or explosions that take place in Britain, explaining that the British authorities are alone capable of preventing the occurrence of such incidents in Britain.

Spokesman Denies Chad 'Allegations' Over Plane
LD111758 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Mar (JANA) — A spokesman for the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau made a statement denying allegations by the renegade Habre's ambassador in Paris regarding the destruction of a French aircraft at Ndjamena airport yesterday.

In his statement, the spokesman said that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah had nothing whatsoever to do with this incident, and while denouncing the renegade Habre's ambassador's allegation regarding Libya's connection with the incident, said: The incident confirms the deterioration of security in Ndjamena and the Habre regime's inability to control matters in the Chadian capital and achieve security and stability, even within the boundaries of the capital which he controls with the protection of foreign troops. This incident is another indication of the anger of the Chadian people and their rejection of French military presence on Chadian territory.

'Dangerous Threats' From Sudan's Numayri Viewed
LD101649 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Mar (JANA) — Commenting on Numayri's open threats to deal a vengeful blow against the Jamahiriyah, a source at the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau said that the Jamahiriyah takes this dangerous threat seriously, and reserves the right to maintain a legitimate defense. The regime in Sudan is held responsible for any action that could escalate tension and shake stability and security in Africa.

In a statement here today, the source pointed out that the Foreign Liaison Bureau asked the Arab ambassadors to inform their governments of the dangerous threats issued by the ruler of the Sudan. The source pointed out that the Sudanese ruler's threats followed the American decision to set up an air bridge to transport American military equipment to Sudan and Numayri's recent lengthy meetings with a senior American military official with the aim of coordinating and planning aggression against the Libyan Arab people.

The source confirmed that we shall continue to escalate our struggle against imperialism and Zionism until the final liberation of the Arab land — and we know how to defend ourselves in alliance with the masses of the Sudanese people, which suffer from the dictatorship and arbitrary rule of Numayri's regime.

JANA: Rebels Down 2 Government Planes in Sudan
LD112043 Tripoli JANA in English 1703 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, Jumada Thani 6, March 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Sudanese revolutionaries early this month downed 2 MIG fighter jets belonging to the regime of hireling Numayri.

It is worth mentioning that Sudanese revolutionaries have recently stepped up their attacks against government troops, which culminated in the attack against ships carrying troop reinforcements for the army, which is now facing difficulties in southern Sudan.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives For Talks
LD120737 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli 12 Mar (JANA) — Brother Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general, arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Brother Chedli Klibi expressed in a statement to the JANA correspondent his pleasure in visiting the Jamahiriyah, and said that he attaches a special importance to the talks that he will hold in the Jamahiriyah, especially at the crucial time through which our nation is now passing.

Citizens Hail Al-Qadhdhafi's 2 Mar Speech
LD121007 Tripoli JANA in English 0921 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 7, March 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The masses of the People's Basic Congress in Marawah went out on a popular march yesterday in support of the leader's speech on March the 2nd.

The masses of the Basic People's Congress reaffirmed their determination to continue the escalation of the popular war and the mobilization of all positions in response to the leader's incitement in his important historical speech on the 7th anniversary of the declaration of the people's authority and birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history.

The city of Misratah also witnessed a popular march in which the masses of the Basic People's Congress and the revolutionary force in Az-Zarruq took part to express support for the leader's speech on this occasion. The participants also called for the convening of emergency sessions of the Basic People's Congresses in Misratah to review the congresses' decisions on the training of Libyan women to use arms.

MAURITANIA

Nouakchott Announces Haydala Cabinet Reshuffle

AB081610 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, has reshuffled his cabinet and now holds the portfolios of prime minister and minister of national defense.

The new cabinet is composed as follows:

Minister-Counselor to the Chairman of CMSN and Head of State in Charge of Special Missions	Col Ahmed Mahmoud Ould el Hussein
Minister and Permanent Secretary to the Government	Lieutenant Col Ahmed Ould Minnih

Minister of:

Interior	Lieutenant Colonel (Iyal) Abdoulaye
Justice and Islamic Affairs	Colonel Cheikh Ould Boyda
Planning and Territorial Development	Ahmed Ould Zain
Finance and Commerce	Sidi Ould Ahmed Deya
Fisheries and Maritime Economy	Capt Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane
Mines and Industry	Diabira Maroufa
Rural Development	Dr (Loumeidou Ould Wailda)
Equipment and Transport	Lt Colonel Gabriel Cimper
Water Supply and Energy	Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah
National Education	Hasni Ould Didi
Higher Education, Administrative Training, and Civil Service	Lt Col Athie Amath
	Health and Labor Ould Deh
Culture, Youth and Sports	Bah Mahmoud (Bah)
Information and Telecommunications	Dr Ahmed Mohamed Salem Ould Zein

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Ahmed (Ourhoume) Hallah
Deputy Minister of Interior	(Ngame Miroine)

MOROCCO

King Hassan Says Egypt Now Back in ICO

LD102341 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2245 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Jidda, 10 Mar (SPA) — Secretary General of the ICO Habib Chatti has received a letter from Moroccan King Hassan II, chairman of the fourth session of the Islamic summit conference, in which the king requests that he make the necessary arrangements and take measures to enable Egypt to officially resume its participation in the ICO, as its readmission has become final. He noted that Egypt's return is final and effective as of now.

His Majesty King Hassan II informed the ICO secretary general in his message, which was conveyed by permanent Moroccan delegate to the ICO Dr Zayn al-'Abidin al-'Alawi, that Egypt's readmission became final after the report submitted by the special committee appointed by the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference to make contacts with the Arab Republic of Egypt. The gist of the report is that Egypt has unreservedly committed itself to the rules, principles and resolutions of the ICO.

His majesty previously sent letters to all the kings, presidents and governments of the member-states to inform them of the report of the Fourth Islamic Summit Committee which had gone to Egypt, and of the final decision to readmit Egypt to the ICO in accordance with the findings of this report.

Hassan Offers To Host Iran, Iraq Leaders

LD101503 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, ICO chairman, has called on Iraq and Iran to quickly put an end to the battles raging between them.

In a message addressed to the UN secretary general, his majesty expressed his deep regret at the dangerous escalation of the Iraq-Iran war. He urged officials all over the world and all peace- and justice-loving people to work for an end to the war between brothers and contribute to the establishment of a dialogue between the two neighboring countries, within the context of the Islamic Peace Committee chaired by the Guinean President.

The message was delivered to the UN secretary general by Morocco's permanent UN representative. Here is the text of the royal appeal:

The war between Iraq and Iran is very fierce, and its ghost grows day-by-day in scope, threat and destruction, to the extent that all that Iraq and Iran own — men, means of life, and forms of civilization and culture — is now threatened with annihilation and destruction. If they are not alert and cautious, these two fraternal countries, which have been two brilliant jewels in the necklace of Islam throughout history and which have, jointly or separately, contributed to the propagation [ar ish'a'a] of Islam, mught be buried under the ruins resulting from the blind destruction they are exchanging. In addition, the danger threatens all neighboring countries and this danger is apt to extend to countries beyond these two. This being the case, the world cannot stand by and watch this great mass annihilation, in which hundreds of thousands of innocent people are falling.

Therefore, there is a need for strong and decisive action to end this deviation from reason and end the reign of madness. To date, many efforts have been made by the Islamic Peace Committee in particular, and the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca expressed appreciation and collective gratitude to its chairman, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who embarked on brave and discerning action. This action should be continued. The current developments in the Iraq-Iran war and its escalation make the need for this action more pressing and urgent than ever before.

Therefore, in our capacity as chairman of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference, we address an open appeal to all officials and peoples and all those who have a burning desire for peace and justice to support and back this action. Meanwhile, we join our Brother Ahmed Sekou Toure, chairman of the Islamic Peace Committee, in fraternally urging the leaders of Baghdad and Tehran to stop the fighting and resume the dialogue within the framework of the Islamic Peace Committee.

Morocco, the country which hosted the latest Islamic summit, would consider it an honor and a priviledge to welcome these leaders on its soil.

[Signed] Hassan II, King of Morocco

Tunisian Call For Direct Polisario Talks Rejected

LD092012 Kuwait KUNA in English 1913 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Rabat, March 9 (KUNA) — Official Moroccan sources Friday described Tunisia's recent call upon Morocco and the Polisario Front to enter into direct negotiations as an abandonment of the concept of an Arab greater Maghreb.

The Tunisian call was contained in a joint Tunisian-Algerian communique issued at the end of a visit by the secretary of the Algerian National Liberation Front to Tunis last week.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources here today hinted that the visit scheduled by Moroccan monarch King Hassan II to Tunis at the end of next week may either be postponed or called off in protest over the Tunisian Government's step. The Moroccan sovereign was earlier reported to be planning a visit to both Libya and Tunisia during this month.

Morocco, under the circumstances, is expected to seek clarifications from the Tunisian Government on her stance on the Western Sahara dispute, with the next OAU summit scheduled to meet within weeks in the Guinean capital of Conakry.

The Sahara Arab Democratic Republic, unilaterally declared by the Polisario Front, has already received the recognition of 29 African states, a little less than the two thirds majority needed for final recognition by the OAU.

SUDAN

Numayri Denies Airlift Transfer With U.S.

JN101451 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1426 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (SUNA) — President Numayri has denied that Sudan has asked for any kind of offensive weapons. He also refuted reports about the existence of an airlift to transfer weapons from the United States to Sudan. He said that Sudan had asked for economic assistance within the framework of the developed Sudanese-U.S. relations. This came when the president received Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti here today.

Following the meeting, Andreotti said that Sudan is endeavoring to solve its problems with the neighboring states through dialogue, and on the basis of the rejecting any interference in Sudan's internal affairs — a principle based on the noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. Andreotti said that he discussed with the president issues that had been dealt with during the president's visit to Italy last November.

On another level, an authoritative source told SUNA that the U.S. military assistance — which Sudan had urgently requested — was agreed upon by the two countries 3 years ago. The source said that the Sudanese first vice president's visit to the United States and the letter he delivered to President Reagan from President Numayiri were aimed to promote the developed relations between the two countries and to exchange views on the region's situation. The source further said that the vice president's mission was extremely successful. This was reflected in the letter sent by President Reagan to President Numayri through a special envoy — a letter which President Numayri received while in Wad Madani, capital of the Central Province. The source said that the United States has affirmed its support for Sudan in defending its unity. The source added that the close cooperation in the various fields will increase, and will soon reflect on the development projects and the security and financial situation in Sudan.

Envoy to Tunis on Iraq's Call for Arab Meeting

JN091843 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Mar, (SUNA) — Sudan has accepted the Iraqi invitation on hold an urgent meeting for the Arab League foreign ministers in Baghdad to consider the situation resulting from the Iran-Iraq war.

Sudanese Ambassador to Tunis Sayyid Sharif, who is also Sudan's permanent representative to Arab League, said he delivered a memorandum to the Arab League General Secretariat today dealing with Sudan's willingness to attend the meeting and stressing Sudan's consistent attitude in supporting Iraq. Sharif said the message also dealt with calling on Arab states to support Iraq which is ready to end the war, whereas the Iranians continue to shell Iraqi towns.

Sharif explained that he also had presented another memorandum to the Arab League Secretariat concerning the recent declarations of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in which he said explicitly that he would back the outlaws in southern Sudan. This is considered a serious intervention in the Sudanese [words indistinct].

Italy's Andreotti Visits for Official Talks

JN091033 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Mar (SUNA) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived here last night on an official visit to Sudan. During the visit, Andreotti will hold talks with Sudanese officials on promoting relations between Sudan and Italy. The Sudanese and Italian sides will also review issues of common interest. The Sudanese and Italian sides will hold a meeting today under the two countries' foreign ministers.

Andreotti will meet tomorrow with People's Assembly Speaker 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid and Ibrahim Mun'im Mansur, minister of finance and economic planning. The Italian minister and the delegation accompanying him will conclude their visit to Sudan next Sunday. It is worth noting that Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak invited Andreotti to visit Sudan when they met last November during President Numayri's visit to Italy.

ETHIOPIA

Meeting With Sudan Cancelled Due to U.S. 'Pressure'

EA111919 Nairobi Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Ethiopia will not attend a joint meeting with Sudan, scheduled to start in Nairobi tomorrow, following allegations that the United States has airlifted quantities of military equipment to Sudan. Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde said in Addis Ababa today that his country will not be pressured into holding talks.

Mr Wolde, who was expected to arrive in Kenya this morning, cancelled his trip in protest against allegations that quantities of military equipment had been airlifted from the United States to Sudan, a step which he said would endanger peace in his country.

However, he said that the talks would have been held in an atmosphere of understanding.

'Massive Airlifting' Responsible

NC111038 Paris AFP in English 1036 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 11 (AFP) — Ethiopia today called off talks with Sudan planned to start in Nairobi from tomorrow "in the light of the massive air-lifting of all types of sophisticated weapons by the United States to the Sudan", Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde announced here today.

Mr Goshu, who was due to leave for the Kenyan capital early today, cancelled the trip in protest, saying his country "shall neither negotiate under duress nor bend its sovereign will to imperialist diktat and conspiracy".

The minister told a news conference that the rapidity and timing of the delivery of the armaments "does not only reflect the sinister motives to sabotage the Nairobi talks, but also reveals the intent to poison and worsen the relations between the two sisterly countries and peoples".

This provided proof of the "collusion and conspiracy of the U.S. and Sudan to undermine Ethiopian independence", he said.

The talks had been arranged by Egypt in a bid to normalize relations between the two neighbouring countries.

Goshu Demands 'Favorable Conditions'

EA120123 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Comrade Goshu Wolde has said that there is no goodwill on the part of the Sudanese Government towards the peace talks being held to improve the deteriorating relations between the two neighboring countries because the Government of the United States is currently sending an unlimited amount of modern weapons to the Sudanese Government.

Comrade Goshu Wolde, minister of foreign affairs and COPWE Central Committee member, disclosed this in a press statement he gave to foreign journalists at his office today in connection with the intended peace talks to be held in Nairobi tomorrow between the foreign ministers of Socialist Ethiopia and the Sudanese Government.

Comrade Goshu affirmed that until favorable conditions are laid down for the peace talks which are intended to stabilize recently deteriorating bilateral relations, due in particular to the serious problem that has cropped up recently, Socialist Ethiopia will not participate in the meeting.

He pointed out that the recent haste of the United States rapidly and in large numbers to supply the Government of Sudan with weapons at this time shows its intentions not only to disrupt relations between the two sister countries but also to obstruct the Nairobi peace talks.

He added that no further proof was needed to display the joint and deliberate plots of Washington and Khartoum to threaten Ethiopia's territorial integrity, independence and revolution.

In his statement the foreign minister said that the distorted propaganda in connection with the Nairobi peace talks is an intended war-mongering plot designed to obstruct the talks. He pointed out that for her part Ethiopia will not participate in the talks under these unbalanced conditions and that she will not bow to imperialist pressure.

In this respect he reaffirmed that Ethiopia respects the territorial integrity and national identity of the Republic of Sudan and desires to live in peace and good neighborliness. He disclosed that Socialist Ethiopia has called on the Government of the Sudan to reciprocate the goodwill shown by Ethiopia towards peace, good neighborliness, and relations by taking objective steps.

Ministry Spokesman Denies Soviet Diplomats Expelled

AB100943 Paris AFP in English 0937 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 10 (AFP) — A spokesman at the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry today categorically denied that two Soviet diplomats had been expelled from Ethiopia at the end of last month.

The report, first made by the U.S. news agency UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI), quoted Western diplomatic sources in this Ethiopian capital as saying that a first secretary at the Soviet Embassy and a KGB agent had been expelled on February 29.

The foreign office spokesman today dismissed the report "as a deliberate attempt to sow discord between the two friendly countries".

USSR Said Providing Chemical Weapons to Government

GF111430 Doha QNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Mar (QNA) — In a statement to QNA, Osman Saleh Sabbe, leader of the Eritrean Liberation Front, stated that recently a Soviet ship unloaded a cargo of poisonous gases, including nerve gases, in the Eritrean port of Asab and that the Ethiopian Government intends to use them during its war against the Eritrean people in the eighth military campaign which it is getting ready to launch against them.

Sabbe added that the Ethiopian occupation authorities had used these gases against the Eritrean people during their sixth military campaign in 1982, which was known as the Red Star campaign, in a limited way in the operations located in northern Eritrea and over 2,000 helpless citizens were killed as a result. He stated that these gases were imported to be used for the mass extermination of the Eritrean population, in addition to being used in military operations. He said that the proof of this is the fact that since the beginning of the year, Ethiopia has begun a military campaign comprising 150,000 soldiers and has distributed equipment for protection against gases to Ethiopian soldiers. Osman Saleh Sabbe, who is currently visiting the UAE, condemned in his statement the method of using poisonous weapons, which are internationally banned, against the peaceful Eritrean people and their struggling forces. He called on the international organizations, led by the United Nations, to intervene in order to immediately put an end the human massacres in Eritrea. He also called on the Soviet Union, considering that it is an international power, to shoulder the responsibility of world security and peace by withdrawing these weapons from Ethiopia and make efforts for just peace in Eritrea, which has been suffering the terror of war for over 22 years.

Sabbe stated that he actually informed the UN secretary general, the secretary general of the Arab League and that of the OAU of this dangerous development and asked them to immediately intervene in order to stop the use of gases in the war in Eritrea.

TANZANIA

Reportage on Visit by Mozambique's Machel

Met by Nyerere

EA101422 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1000 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Dodoma: President Samora Machel of Mozambique arrived in Dodoma today for a brief visit to Tanzania. On arrival, President Machel was met by his host, Mwalimu Nyerere. It is expected that President Machel will brief Mwalimu Nyerere, the chairman of frontline states, on the latest developments in southern Africa, in particular the non-aggression pact to be signed between Mozambique and South Africa. The Mozambican leader is also expected to address the session of the National Executive Committee which was due to open in Dodoma today under the chairmanship of Mwalimu Nyerere.

Nyerere, Machel Address Committee

EA111645 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1300 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Dodoma: President Samora Machel of Mozambique has described Tanzania's union as a model of African unity. Addressing members of the National Executive Committee, Ndugu Samora lashed out at disgruntled elements who are being used by enemies of Africa to disintegrate the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. He said Mozambique will not stay idle while a few elements are trying to destroy the foundation of unity in the continent.

The Mozambican leader was applauded when he said the few reactionaries were disgruntled politicians who are seeking to destroy the Union of Tanzania for their own ends. He also said the antiunion elements were bent to retard the struggle against colonialism, national unity, and peace which has been prevailing in the United Republic of Tanzania.

In his speech, President Machel also proposed the name of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere to be the sole candidate in the next elections of the party's chairmanship post. He described Mwalimu as a devoted leader and an advocate of the poor people, not only in Africa but the world over.

Speaking after Ndugu Samora's address, Mwalimu Nyerere said Tanzania trusts Mozambique on her dialogue with racist South Africa. He said Tanzania understands the circumstances which led Mozambique to start the dialogue and there is no shade of doubt that Mozambique was not betraying African interests.

Mwalimu explained that for countries with a common destiny, they have to understand and trust each other because they faced similar problems.

On the Boers of South Africa, Mwalimu warned that they were enemies and whatever they did will not distract Tanzania in its commitment to support the liberation of its brothers and sisters. He condemned Pretoria for being the great enemy of Africa because the Boers hated and oppressed the blacks because of their colour.

Mwalimu added that Tanzania will not trust and will continue to consider the Boers as enemies until they took genuine internal reform.

Mwinyi Sole Zanzibar Presidential Candidate

EA101847 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1600 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Dodoma — The party National Executive Committee has nominated Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi the sole candidate for the Zanzibar presidential election due to be held later this year.

The nomination was made in Dodoma today during a special session of the National Executive Committee there. The party's Central Committee, which met earlier in the week, proposed two names for the nomination.

A statement issued in Dodoma by the party's Political Propaganda and Mass Mobilization Department said that the other proposal, Ndugu Idrisa Abdulwail, who is also speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, withdrew his name before the nomination took place today.

CHAD

Reportage on Explosions on DC-8 at Ndjamena Airport

Ambassador Blames Libya

NC101732 Paris AFP in English 1720 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, March 10 (AFP) — A bomb attack on a French airliner about to take off from Ndjamena, Chad, for Paris wounded 25 people today and totally destroyed the plane, a DC8 of the UTA company, in a second blast 20 minutes later.

Airline sources said the wounded included 12 passengers, 4 cabin staff and 9 maintenance workers on the tarmac. The Chadian Embassy here said one stewardess had serious leg injuries.

The attack was not immediately claimed, but the Chadian ambassador in Paris, Ailam Mi Ahmad, at once blamed the "atrocious" act on Libya, which supports forces led by former President Goukouni Oueddei seeking to oust the French-supported Hissein Habre government.

An embassy spokesman said a first explosion went off in the plane's baggage hold during a transit stop at Ndjamena on a flight from Brazzaville to Paris via Bangui in the Central African Republic and Chad. The almost 100 passengers were evacuated immediately as firemen brought a fire under control.

Twenty minutes later, a second explosion engulfed the plane in flames, the embassy spokesman added, destroying it. There was no damage to airport buildings or other parked planes, he said.

Group Claims Responsibility

LD111328 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Responsibility for the attack against the UTA DC-8 aircraft has been claimed by a group calling itself "Idriss Miskine." The group claims responsibility for the attack yesterday at Ndjamena airport in Chad against a DC-8 aircraft of the French company UTA.

In a telephone call to REUTER in Paris this morning, an anonymous caller said the attack was aimed at teaching a lesson to the Gor dictatorship in Ndjamena which is an obstacle to national reconciliation. President Hissein Habre belongs to the Gor ethnic group in eastern Chad. The caller also asks France and Libya not to interfere in the internal affairs of Chad.

In Chad, the information minister has just disclosed that a time bomb hidden in a parcel caused the explosion. The minister also makes it clear that the parcel bomb had been put on board in Brazzaville, in the Congo. He accuses Libya, and particularly Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, of being the brain behind this vile act.

GUNT Communique Deplores Attack

AB120848 Paris AFP in French 0735 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, 12 Mar (AFP) — On Sunday evening, the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, the armed opposition to President Habre's regime, "deplored" in Paris the destruction of a UTA DC-8 airliner in Ndjamena and accused the "militarist circles" in France and in the Chadian capital, of being responsible for the action.

In a communique handed to AFP and dated Bardai (north Chad), the GUNT presidency dismissed the "irresponsible allegations and insinuations" made by the Chadian ambassador to Paris "accusing essentially friendly countries." "Though the GUNT is at grips with the French expeditionary troops sent to Chad to support Hissein Habre, the GUNT cannot at all be blamed for the destruction" of the UTA aircraft, the communique further said. It has "never resorted to blind terrorism as a method of fighting, especially when the aircraft is for civil aviation." For the GUNT, that "odious operation" can "only be a provocation skillfully staged by the French and the FAN militarist circles opposed to any peaceful settlement of the Chadian conflict."

The communique added: "Those circles essentially want to torpedo the conference on national reconciliation in Chad under the auspices of the OAU. They are also trying to frustrate the diplomatic efforts which the GUNT is making now in order to achieve reconciliation among Chadians."

In conclusion, the communique says, those circles want to "justify the reinforcement of the French expeditionary forces taking place these past few weeks in order to wage war toward the total occupation of Chad."

GHANA

Agricultural Cooperation With Ivory Coast To Increase

AB110940 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Ghana and the Ivory Coast are to step up their cooperation in many fields, especially agriculture. In this respect, both countries are to reactivate the joint permanent commission for cooperation. This is the outcome of discussions held in Accra between a four-man Ivorian delegation headed by the minister of agriculture, water resources and forestry, Mr Denis Bra Kanon, and Ghana Government officials led by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] coordinating secretary, Mr P.V. Obeng. In the statement, they agreed in principle to come together to examine and find solutions to problems facing the cocoa industry. The statement deplored the downward trend of cocoa production in recent years. It said this is due partly to bad climatic conditions as well as low prices offered to the producers on the world market. It called for a united front by producers during the renegotiation of international cocoa agreements which is expected to take place in May this year.

The Ivorian delegation later extended an invitation from President Houphouet-Boigny to the coordinating secretary to visit the Ivory Coast in near future. The Ivorian delegation left for home yesterday.

TUC Leadership Denies Link With 'Old Politicians'

AB091850 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The Trades Union Congress [TUC] leadership has assured the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] that it will never collaborate with old politicians who have nothing to offer this country. Indeed, we consider any such collaboration as criminal and a betrayal of workers' interests.

The congress said this in a statement issued today on the broadcast by the PNDC chairman, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, on Independence Day. The statement pledged support for any move to expose any member of the congress leadership who may be in league with old politicians and acting under their influence. It said though its own minimum wage proposal is based on a realistic appraisal of the cost of living in the country, it was made only as a starting point of negotiations. Indeed, congress has since agreed with government and employers that the basis for determining the minimum wage should be the extent to which the real value of wages have been eroded since April 1983, as was also stated by Flight Lt Rawlings in the broadcast. The congress said if the basis it used for arriving at what the minimum wage should be incorrect, then government officials, including the secretary for finance and economic planning and the head of state himself, have a right to explain the state of the economy to them.

The congress expressed its dismay at the criticism made against it. The statement expressed the hope for a meeting between TUC leaders and the head of state so that, as it put it, these tensions will not develop unduly.

It is recalled that the chairman in his broadcast, in effect, described the 300 cedis minimum-wage proposal as unrealistic. He said its implementation will lead to the sacking of thousands of workers. Scarce foreign exchange will also be needed to print the extra cedis required while the nation's gold and other resources will have to be pledged for this.

Libyan 'Green Book' Study Club Inaugurated

AB110825 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] The special adviser to the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Captain Kojo Tsikata, has said that in creating a truly democratic and just society in Ghana, it will be dangerous to ignore the deeply rooted attitudes of the people. He stressed that while Ghanaians have much of value to learn from the philosophy of the Libyan experience and also from other countries, they must select which ones are relevant to their own past history and present circumstances. Capt Tsikata was speaking at the inauguration of the Green Book Study Club in Accra yesterday. He said the aim of the club is not to persuade its members to accept uncritically ideas which may not be relevant to the Ghanaian situation. Rather, it is to make them examine and analyze political thoughts and ideas that will enable them to participate more meaningfully in evolving Ghana's own political, economic, and social structure. The special adviser referred in particular to a section in the Green Book which acknowledges the importance of tradition and religion. Capt Tsikata said those of (?no) questioning minds who have concluded that the Western model of democracy is inappropriate to Ghana's needs, have tended to adopt, as a blueprint, the socialist ideas, developed in industrial Europe, without exploring it further. He said in the past few years, in the process of giving political education to the people and of opening their minds to new ways of using their power and responsibilities, the organs of the revolution have achieved much, but there is much still to be done, and any organization like the Green Book club which provides the opportunity for Ghanaians, especially the young ones, to analyze their ideas, will enable them to take part more meaningfully in evolving new structures.

A member of the World Center for Study and Research of the Green Book, Professor (Abdallah Botchway), said the message the writer of the Green Book, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of Libya, wants to send across is very simple, and that is that Africans must free themselves from the East or West and be themselves. He discarded the notion that the third universal theory is for Libyans only. According to Professor (Botchway), the Green Book is an affirmation of the (?cosmic reason) of African belief.

The secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Ghana, Mr Mawia al-Mabruk, said the Green Book has been written for those who want to have a change for the good in society. He congratulated all those who contributed in the establishment of the club in Accra. The Green Book club is the first to be formed in West Africa. At the ceremony, a newspaper called *THE EAGLE*, organ of the Green Book Study Club, was launched by the deputy secretary for information, Mr (Totobi Kwashi).

GUINEA-BISSAU

Prime Minister Saude Maria Removed From Office

AB111226 Paris AFP in French 1155 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Bissau, 11 Mar (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria has been sacked, according to a communique carried by the radio in Bissau on Sunday morning.

According to the communique, the decision to remove Saude Maria from his functions of prime minister was made by Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira soon after the opening on Saturday evening of a session of the Guinea-Bissau Revolutionary Council, the institution which has been ruling the country since the coup d'etat of 14 November 1980.

The communique broadcast by the national radio gave no reason for the decision, nor did it announce the name of Saude Maria's successor as prime minister.

Saude Maria had been in office since 17 May 1982.

Explanation 'After April Elections'

LD111351 Libson Domestic Service in Portuguese 1300 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Guinea-Bissau is in the news, since the dismissal of Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria. News of the prime minister's dismissal was given last night in a communique from the Council of the Revolution read on the Bissau radio. Today, the same communique has been repeated every half hour, and so far no details have been given for the dismissal of the head of government of Guinea-Bissau.

In statements to ANOP, President Joao Bernardo Vieira said the matter would be fully explained after the April elections, when the country is to elect deputies to the National People's Assembly which will discuss a draft constitution providing for the abolition of the post of prime minister.

In a contact with Guinea-Bissau's national radio, we discovered that Victor Saude Maria has not been removed from the party and that the situation in the country is completely calm.

NIGERIA

Rumors of Mercenaries' Takeover Sparks Market Riot

AB121021 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The stampede at Okiare Market and some other markets [words indistinct] last Thursday [words indistinct].

An investigation conducted by Radio Nigeria defense correspondents shows that the market went into stampede following rumors that Nigeria has changed its government and that (?British) mercenaries had taken over power. Our correspondents found that the rumors were part of a plan by Nigerian fugitives in the United Kingdom and the United States to destabilize the present military government using their collaborators in the country. It was also discovered that the fugitives concluded their invasion plans early last week at a meeting in London.

At the meeting, South Africa and Britain were charged with the responsibility of (?setting up) a mercenary force at the cost of about 300 million naira.

It has been (?proved) that the British Government was not involved in the plot. Our defense correspondent stated that all Nigerians must remain vigilant and expose anyone in the country found to be supporting the devilish plan of the fugitives. An appeal has also gone to all Nigerians not to believe rumors or tales that are not substantiated.

Idiagbon Blames Political Refugees

AB111315 Paris AFP in English 1246 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, Mar 11 (AFP) — Four Nigerian politicians who fled abroad at the recent military takeover are recruiting mercenaries to invade the country, the regime's second-in-command, Brigadier General Tunde Idiagbon, has asserted.

According to press reports today, the four are Joseph Wayas, former president of the Senate, Adisa Akinloye, the former chairman of the ruling Nigerian People's Party, Umaru Dikko, the former minister of transport and election campaign director for ex-President Shehu Shagari, and Bello Maitama Yussuf, the former trade minister.

However, Chief Akinloye took space in one newspaper, *THE SUNDAY CONCORD*, to deny the allegations against him.

Quoting General Idiagbon, the reports said that they had recruited mercenaries in Britain, France, the United States and South Africa.

The mercenaries, the reports said, were hired for a 300 million dollar operation aimed at knocking out Air Force bases, destroying oil depots and the refinery at Kaduna in northern Nigeria, and dismantling the Army, replacing it with a new corps of officers and men under British supervision.

However, there was no evidence of British Government collaboration in the alleged plot, General Idiagbon said. The general said that some foreigners were already in Nigeria to prepare for the invasion, and he called on Nigerians to cooperate with the government to maintain stability and revitalise the economy.

One newspaper, *THE GUARDIAN*, quoted him as saying that the Nigerian forces would be able to repulse any invasion.

Chief Akinloye said in his notice in *THE CONCORD* that he wished the military government success and pledged his support for it. "I will never advocate violence or subversion, and will not support anyone who may advocate violence or subversion," he added. "I dissociate myself from politicians, political parties or shades of opinion" who had declared their intentions of sabotaging the government.

Mr. Dikko recently told a British newspaper that he wanted to organise a "holy war" to reconquer Nigeria.

The personal fortunes of the four people named were evaluated by different sources here at several billion dollars.

A Nigerian journalist said that General Idiagbon made his accusations at mid-week to the local press, who decided not to publish them until today.

SMC Bans Political Parties, Approves Other Decrees

AB092105 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The Supreme Military Council, SMC, met at Dodan Barracks yesterday and approved a number of proposals brought to it by the National Council of State. Correspondent Mohamed Okorejo now gives details of the decisions reached at the meeting:

[Begin recording] The meeting was the fourth to be held by the Council since its inception early in January. It considered matters of national importance and took decisions on them. These include efforts made by the Federal Military Government [FMG] to promote friendly relations between Nigeria and other countries which the Council [words indistinct]. The Council also reviewed the national security situation and approved the recommendation of the National Council of State that a judicial inquiry be set up with immediate effect to look into the recent religious disturbances in Gongola State. And to make for speedy implementation of the programs of the military administration, the Council considered and approved six decrees that are to be of immediate application [words indistinct] military administration.

They are:

1) Political Parties Dissolution and Prohibition Decree 1984 — This decree provides for the dissolution and prohibition of political parties and other similar organizations for [words indistinct] and the disposal of and discharge of all assets and liabilities of the dissolved political parties and state-creation movements.

2) Exchange Control/Anti-Sabotage Decree 1984 — The decree makes special penal provisions with respect to acts subvertive of the exchange-control legislation in force in the country. Six penalties are prescribed and provisions are made for constitution of special tribunals for the trial of offenders under the decree.

3) Banking/Freezing of Accounts Decree 1984 — The decree empowers the head of the FMG, where he suspects or believes that any person has been involved in certain offenses, including bribery and abuse of office, to issue or cause orders to be issued authorizing an investigation into the accounts of suspects and inspecting the operations of such persons [words indistinct].

4) Public Officers Protection Against False Accusation Decree 1984 — This decree makes it an offense for any of the print or electronic media to print or transmit without justification any false statements or any rumors calculated to bring public officers to ridicule or disrepute. Penalties are imposed for any contravention of the provisions of the decree.

5) Robbery and Firearms Special Provisions Decree 1984 — This decree sets up special tribunals for the trial of armed robbery and firearms cases.

6) Recovery of Public Property Special Military Tribunals Decree 1984 — The decree makes provisions for the head of the FMG to constitute a panel to conduct an investigation into the assets of any officer who is alleged to have engaged in corrupt practices, unjust enrichment of himself, or any other person who has abused his office or has in any other way been guilty of breach of the code of conduct for public officers contained in the fifth schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1979.

This is a clean-package deal for an effective administration for which the government and the governed have equal responsibilities to (?protect). Now that the government has enunicated its policy, the ball is in the court of all Nigerians to show their desire for good government by casting away their notoriety for circumventing laws, and adhering implicitly to the dictates of the decrees. [end recording]

Ministers Leave for Conference on Strategy in U.S.

AB121200 Lagos NAN in English 1146 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 12 (NAN) — The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, and the minister of defence, Major General Domkat Bali, left Lagos yesterday for Washington to attend a three-day international conference on "Strategy '84."

An authoritative source at the External Affairs Ministry told a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) today that the conference would discuss issues relating to world security and that the ministers would each present a paper.

Minister Speaks on Moving Capital to Abuja

AB101308 Lagos NAN in English 1248 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Abuja, Mar 10 (NAN) — The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), which was rocked last year by an alleged 15 million naira fraud, is to be scrapped by the end of this month, the minister of the Federal Territory, Major General Mamman Vatsa, told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Abuja yesterday.

The minister said in an interview that he would also carry out a "very drastic restructuring" of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) by the end of this month. Maj Gen Vatsa said that Abuja had a legal identity and that the existing seven development areas would serve as local government councils and would cater for all the needs of people in each area of the territory.

The minister said that the ministry had got 10,000 bags of rice for the people in the territory and that the development areas would serve as distributing points, while the National Supply Company would distribute other commodities under the strict guidance of his ministry. Maj Gen Vatsa said that he had no intention of fixing prices for essential commodities.

On plot allocation, Gen Vatsa said that he would ensure a rational allocation of land to applicants, promising that he would not revoke any allocation made except if it did not conform with the laid down regulation.

Gen Vatsa said that the nation would know a new date for the movement of seat of government from Lagos to Abuja probably by the time the revised 1984 budget was out. He said that the movement would not be rushed and gave an assurance that the design and the execution of projects would strictly follow plans.

Air Staff Chief Issues Warning on Airspace Violation

AB092125 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] At a news conference in Lagos today, the chief of air staff, Air Vice Marshall Ibrahim Alfa, spoke on the outcome of his maiden tour of the Air Force formations and (?centers). Oge Obeyomi was there.

[Begin Obeyomi recording] The chief of air staff said that he undertook the tour to acquaint himself with the various formations of the Air Force. Air Vice Marshal Ibrahim Alfa expressed satisfaction with the morale of the officers and men of the Air Force and gave the assurance that they were ready at all times to defend the nation's airspace against any aggression. He warned that anybody who violated the country's airspace, especially for offensive purposes, would have himself to blame.

On training, the chief of air staff stressed that the Nigerian Air Force now intended to train its officers within the country. He explained that for practical reasons, Armed Forces personnel should be trained in the environment where they were expected to fight, since the Air Force did not intend to wage war on any country except to defend the nation's airspace against any aggression. The chief of air staff stated that all contracts involving equipment and material for the Air Force should again be negotiated. He said that if some of them were not compatible with the force's [word indistinct], they should be terminated.

On the reorganization now going on in Nigerian Air Force, Air Vice Marshall Ibrahim Alfa [words indistinct]. He remarked that some officers were leaving the service voluntarily while others were compelled to do so in accordance with the revolution, stressing that there was no purge because there were no bad eggs in the Air Force.

On accomodation, the chief of air staff said that the Federal Military Government was doing everything possible to ensure that all Air Force personnel were housed in the barracks. He denied that there was a faster promotion prospect in the Army as compared with the Air Force. The chief of air staff said that there was standardization in the Armed Forces promotion process.

Air Vice Marshall Alfa also explained the necessity for foreigners in the Nigerian Air Force. On the relocation of the Tactical Air Command headquarters from Benin to Makurdi, Air Vice Marshal Alfa explained that Benue state capital was the actual base of the command. He said that the command headquarters was temporarily sited in a rented house in Benin pending the provision of infrastructure in Makurdi. The chief of air staff remarked that the infrastructure in Makurdi had now been improved so the command headquarters has to leave for its permanent site.

Judge Orders DAILY TIMES Editor Arrested

AB101055 Lagos NAN in English 0840 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Ikeja, March 9 (NAN) — An Ikeja High Court judge, Mr Justice W. Ajao Oshodi, today ordered the police to arrest the editor of the *DAILY TIMES*, Mr Martin Iroabuchi, and produce him in court on March 14 to face a charge of contempt.

Justice Ajao Oshodi wanted the editor and the reporter of a story published on March 3 captioned "Court Rejects Letter From SMC [Supreme Military Council]" to appear before him and show cause why they should not be committed for contempt. The judge said that the report misrepresented court proceedings in an application challenging police detention of seven members of a family at Isolo. He denied rejecting any letter and described the report as sensational.

Internal Affairs Minister Receives Romanian Envoy

AB121015 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of internal affairs, Brigadier Mohammed Magoro, this weekend received in audience the Romanian ambassador in Nigeria, Mr Vasile Chivulescu. The discussions centered on possible areas of cooperation between the two countries in the economic, social, industrial, and cultural fields. This is with a view to strengthen the existing cordial relations between Nigeria and Romania. Brig Magoro assured the envoy of the determination of the Federal Military Government to wipe out the incidence of armed robberies in Nigeria. The ambassador had earlier sought the assistance of the Federal Government in finding permanent solutions to some of the problems facing his country's embassy in Nigeria.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Da Costa Holds Banquet for Portugal's Eanes

LD112328 Lisbon in Portuguese to Europe 1900 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] At the official banquet he gave yesterday evening in President Ramalho Eanes's honor, President Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome and Principe said that his country is strongly committed to developing cooperation relations with Portugal. He also voiced his country's views on African and world problems.

In his reply, President Ramalho Eanes emphasized that the new relationship between Portugal and Sao Tome must be based on respect for national identity and for the choices made by the two peoples.

The Portuguese president's speech had a number of allusions to third countries, particularly when he said that it is not Portugal's vocation to serve as a middleman for other powers' relations with Africa. We want to establish relations free of any kind of paternalism, Ramalho Eanes stated. This was taken as a clear reference to the attitude of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries when they promptly rejected a proposal that they should enlarge their summit meetings to include Portugal. The proposal was made on a number of occasions by Foreign Minister Jaime Gama. At the time of the Bissau summit, President Samora Machel of Mozambique said that — to quote him verbatim — the five did not need a big daddy.

Eanes yesterday reiterated Portugal's total willingness to engage in all-round cooperation with the African countries. He stressed that Portugal has no intention to seek to impose any models nor unequal relationships.

SENEGAL

Assembly Creates Two New Administrative Regions

AB101302 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Dakar, Mar 10 (AFP) — Two new administrative regions have been created in Senegal under the terms of a bill approved by the National Assembly, splitting the regions of Casamance and Sine-Saloum.

This means that from July 1, Senegal will be divided into 10 regions — instead of the present eight — each comprising three departments.

During discussions on the bill yesterday, Interior Minister Ibrahima Wone stressed that the division of Casamance was nothing to do with separatist violence there in December, but completed the government's decentralisation of Senegal.

The southern region of Casamance is practically cut off from the rest of Senegal by the tiny state of the Gambia and by the Gambia River.

UPPER VOLTA

Two Trade Union Leaders Reportedly Arrested

AB121057 Paris AFP in French 0754 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Ouagadougou, 12 Mar (AFP) — Two members of the National Executive of the Upper Voltan National Union of African Teachers (SNEAHV) — Secretary General Jean Bila and Secretary for External Relations Joachim Sib — were arrested last Friday and have been detained since then at the Investigations Department of the Gendarmeries, it was learned on Sunday from their families. The same source specified that the investigators are believed to be looking for two other members of the National Executive.

There was no official comment on Sunday afternoon concerning these arrests, the first since the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] assumed power following a coup d'etat on 4 August last year. Government sources, however, indicated that explanations would soon be given about this matter.

Observers have noted that these arrests took place a few days after several Revolutionary Defense Committees (CDR) had called on the CNR to take measures against the "reactionary" leadership of this trade union. It was recalled particularly that on 1 March, the Ouagadougou CDR had called on the CNR to take "a revolutionary sanction against the SNEAHV whose policy, it said, demonstrates "its strong support for the defunct political classes."

The arrests were made a few days after the SNEAHV had sent to all its branches and cells a circular dated 6 March 1984 in which the National Executive called on the militants for a "general, total, and permanent mobilization to guard against any eventuality."

According to observers, the arrest of the two labor leaders constitutes the first violation of the principle often reaffirmed by the CNR members and which states that there would be no repression against the "reactionary" trade unions and that the ideological struggle was the appropriate answer for them.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Discusses Lusaka Accord Reached With RSA

MB091625 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Speech by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos during a meeting with MPLA-Labor Party militants in Luanda on 8 March — recorded]

[Text] Important events have been taking place in southern Africa over the past few months. Attempts by the regime of South Africa and imperialism to forcefully impose political changes on the sovereign countries of our region have failed. The direct military intervention by the South African armed forces or the indirect intervention through the gangs of armed puppets in their service have not been able to break the resistance of the peoples, who are increasingly determined to defend their independence, territorial integrity, and right to choose the path of economic and social development which best corresponds to their own national interests.

The development of the struggle of the South African people within the country has forced the racist government of South Africa to implement a facade of constitutional changes in order to maintain the internationally condemned apartheid system.

The armed struggle which has been conducted by the Namibian people over the past years against the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa has made the defense of this territory a heavy financial burden for the Pretoria regime. The heroic resistance that our combatants and people have displayed against the illegal occupation of Cunene Province by the South African Army forces has also transformed this part of our territory into a tremendous additional military expense for the army of aggression and killed and maimed many of its members.

Confronted by the determination of the Angolan people in particular, and the peoples of the region in general, who have made use of every means at their disposal to prevent the realization of its military designs, the South African Government and the imperialist forces that support it have begun to look for negotiated solutions. Maybe they have realized that it is not possible for them to achieve military solutions, and now they will try to achieve through negotiations what they failed to achieve by military means.

We have defined political and diplomatic work as a supplement to the political, economic, social, and military activity which our party and government have been conducting in the country so that we may achieve the objectives of our revolution. For this reason we have been making joint efforts in the military and diplomatic fields for the defense of our sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I stated yesterday that our country has no borders with South Africa and that our prime objective is the withdrawal of the South African forces from our country. In order to supervise the withdrawal, a joint military commission has been created in Lusaka. Should everything go undisturbed its task will be finished by the end of March.

However, there are two aspects upon which the MPLA-Labor Party stand is based that must be followed with great vigilance throughout this process, namely the application of UN Resolution 435, leading to the real independence of Namibia, and the cessation of all South African logistical and military support for the UNITA armed gangs. Regarding the first aspect, which deals with the implementation of UN Resolution 435, we think that it is necessary to have parallel movement by the parties directly involved in the Namibian armed conflict, that is, the South African Government and SWAPO, so that they sign a cease-fire accord to enable the United Nations to begin the implementation of that resolution. It is only this parallel movement [words indistinct] of withdrawal of the South African forces from southern Angola that will make possible the strengthening of the still fragile understanding reached in Lusaka. As you know, comrades, this understanding does not foresee measures for the cessation of military hostilities in Namibia. This is natural, because even though SWAPO respects and accepts the understanding, it is not a part of it. Therefore, the Government of South Africa now has a good opportunity to show that it really wants peace, and that it is capable of the political will necessary to solve in a constructive manner the problems of southern Africa, based on respect for the sovereignty of the peoples in the region.

The first steps that have been taken with the release of a number of Namibian political prisoners are not yet sufficient to assess the true commitment in search of peace for the peoples of our region.

There will only be a cease-fire accord in Namibia if free elections in this territory are to be held on the basis [words indistinct] what electoral system. It is only through this system that all Namibian political forces will be given and the possibility to peacefully solve the independence problem [words indistinct] under UN supervision.

Logically, (?prolonged) delay in the solution of these matters causes frustrations [words indistinct] it provokes frustrations for the Namibian people and SWAPO. [words indistinct] results so far achieved in the diplomatic field. [passage indistinct]

During the first war of national liberation it was an instrument of the colonial regime used by the police for the control of foreigners and defense of the State Directorate-General for Security to destroy the MPLA. In the second war of national liberation, UNITA transformed itself into an instrument of the Government of South Africa and imperialism, which made it possible to present it as a political alternative to the MPLA. Such efforts were carried out to the extent of transforming UNITA into an instrument of destruction of the national heritage and economy through acts of sabotage, armed banditry, and terrorism. Our people know them. They know the atrocities and horrible crimes committed by the UNITA armed gangs who execute orders from foreign forces [words indistinct].

Without the military and logistical support from abroad, particularly South Africa and the imperialist circles to whom this regime is linked, the UNITA armed gangs cannot survive. [passage indistinct] feel deceived by UNITA leaders and officials [words indistinct]. Should these citizens repent and present themselves to our military or civilian authorities [words indistinct] they will be logically integrated [words indistinct].

We shall wage a relentless fight against the armed gangs [words indistinct]. This is a popular feeling, a feeling of our people who have experienced the atrocities [word indistinct] the armed bandits and the racist forces who occupy a part of the territory [words indistinct].

The massive integration of our youngsters into the armed forces actually show that deep patriotic feeling and the determination to defend our gains that have been achieved with sacrifice, blood and lives of our heroes [words indistinct] both in the defense of independence and a dignified life for our people.

Finally, comrades, I want to inform you that our government has been working to honor the commitments that it made at the Lusaka meeting. In this regard, we have been getting the understanding of the SWAPO leadership. Moreover, [words indistinct] South Africa. The presence of the Cuban forces in Angola does not constitute any threat to South Africa nor any other state in the region. The Cuban internationalist forces have a specific mission which is clearly defined in the 4 February joint declaration of the Governments of Angola and Cuba. This declaration and the 26 August declaration issued by the president of the People's Republic of Angola remain the base [words indistinct]. We are in the Year of Defense and Production, and the essential tasks outlined in the 31 December message remain valid for the party militants and all our working people.

Foreign Minister Jorge Returns From OAU Meeting

MB110916 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0700 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Paulo Jorge, the Angolan minister of foreign affairs, returned home yesterday from Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, where he attended the proceedings of the 40th session of the OAU Council of Ministers. In addition to these working session, Paulo Jorge held several meetings with other ministers in Addis Ababa, namely with ministers of the Portuguese-speaking African countries, with frontline state ministers, and with ministers of the countries that have already recognized the SDAR as a full member of the OAU. The talks that Paulo Jorge held with his colleagues focused on the latest developments in southern Africa and issues linked to the functioning of that organization. We recall that at the OAU ministerial session a budget of $25.3 million was approved for the 1984-85 and decisions were made concerning countries in arrears to the organization.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Returns From Meeting With Tanzania's Nyerere

MB120833 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0430 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Samora Machel, chairman of the Frelimo Party and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, who had been in Tanzania since Saturday, returned to Maputo early last evening.

In Tanzania yesterday, the leader of the Mozambique's revolution addressed members of the National Executive Committee of Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM], which is meeting in Dodoma.

In his address Field Marshal Samora Machel said that he brought a message of solidarity to the CCM, which is leading the destinies of the United Republic of Tanzania and which recently experienced disturbing moments marked by divisive maneuvers against the union.

In his address the chairman of the Frelimo Party made an exhausting analysis of the reason which led to the resignation of Aboud Jumbe from the Revolutionary Council of Zanzibar and the presidency of the island's government on 29 January. Field Marshal Samora Machel reaffirmed the Frelimo Party's support for the measures taken by the CCM.

While in Tanzania President Samora Machel also met Julius Nyerere, his Tanzanian counterpart. During the visit the chairman of the Frelimo Party was accompanied by Joaquim Chissano, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee for foreign affairs, and Francisco Madeira, the Mozambique ambassador to Tanzania.

Hundreds Reported Dead From Drought in Tete

MB091344 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from the northwestern Mozambique province of Tete say hundreds of people have died as a result of the severe drought, and thousands have been forced to leave their land. A total of 630,000 people are threatened by undernourishment in the four worst affected districts, mainly to the south of the River Zambezi. Sources in the provincial government say 320 people died in just one area in the month of January, but added that no one knew what the full death toll might be. A peasant from a village close to the provincial capital said the only food available was leaves from the forest, and people were dying like flies. More than 100 families have left the village. An Italian priest who runs a boarding school in Cahora Bassa district said only (?50) of the 900 students turned up for the new school year.

Attempts by the authorities to get food to the starving people are being hampered by shortages of transport and fuel, and sabotage attacks by South African-backed armed bandits. The provincial commission for natural disasters said the only hope of release is aid from the international community, as had happened in the southern provinces of Gaza and Inhambane. Tens of thousands of people died from the effects of drought in these two provinces last year, but international aid and military victories against the armed bandits have now improved the situation.

NAMIBIA

Nujoma: War To Continue Until RSA Withdraws

MB092012 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 9 Mar 84

["News in Depth" program]

[Text] Lusaka — The president of SWAPO of Namibia, Comrade Sam Nujoma, said on Wednesday this week that the combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia [PLAN] will intensify the war of liberation against the occupation forces of racist South Africa inside Namibia regardless of the disengagement of racist South African troops from southern Angola. Addressing a news conference in Lusaka, the president, Comrade Sam Nujoma, said that SWAPO was not affected by the recent agreement between Angola and South Africa. He further said that SWAPO will not stop its war until the regime of South Africa agrees to withdraw from Namibia and hold direct talks with SWAPO on the immediate implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978. The president also dismissed South African claims that SWAPO was frustrating the disengagement process in Angola. In his own words, Comrade Sam Nujoma said, and we quote, freedom fighters of PLAN are not operating in Angola. We are operating inside Namibia. He declared that South African racists are sitting on a volcano and that volcano is the decision to deny over 20 million people the right of self-determination, unquote [as heard].

SWAPO Raids Not Aimed at Foiling RSA-Angola Pact

MB110500 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to media reports from Namibia and South Africa, freedom fighters of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, the military wing of SWAPO of Namibia, in recent weeks have intensified their operations against South African forces deep inside Namibia. Latest reports say that since the beginning of February, PLAN combatants have carried out numerous operations directed against South African military installations inside [words indistinct], including an attack on the South African Air Force base near (Ondangua), sabotage of two railway lines, and an attack on the South African military base near [words indistinct]. These attacks, and other PLAN military operations in recent weeks, are being depicted by certain circles as a breach of the recent Angola-South African accord. SWAPO, according to these circles, is described as a noncooperative organization determined to break the peaceful agreement between Angola and the apartheid state. But (?the reason) why the armed struggle inside Namibia is continuing is because Namibia is occupied illegally by arrogant foreign forces who, until now, continue to (?murder, rape, and beat) [words indistinct] Namibian people.

It is not the fault of the Namibian people why this war is continuing, as it has [words indistinct]. The Namibian people are fighting a war of (?resistance). They are defending themselves from the [words indistinct]. The present war is a continuation of that very war our (?grandfathers) [words indistinct] against unarmed Namibians in the [words indistinct]. It is a continuation of the war South Africa (?started) [words indistinct] against unarmed Namibians, mainly women. Our war is a war of people who are defending themselves, their children, and their country against foreigners who come to kill and rob them and their country. As a matter of fact, [words indistinct] it is South Africa's duty to bring an end to this war, not SWAPO's. We are on record as having told South Africa and the world at large in black and white that SWAPO is ready to sign a cease-fire with South Africa and to implement UN Resolution 435 of 1978 if South Africa is ready to do so. But South Africa up to now is not willing to do so. The war was started by South Africa on the Namibian people and it must be the South Africans who end it by signing a cease-fire with SWAPO, the representative of the Namibian people. Presently, the attitude of the opponents of our struggle is being shaped by the South African propaganda to believe that the SWAPO organization is interested in bloodshed and terrorism. But the truth of the matter is not being made public — that South Africa is not interested in allowing Namibia to attain her independence. The truth is [word indistinct] that South Africa is (?trying) very hard nowadays to create a neocolonial government in Namibia based on the multiparty conference, but people are saying: We are denied the opportunity to elect representatives of our own choice in a free democratic manner [words indistinct] when the multiparty conference (?is being forced down our throats).

South Africa now is committed to getting an [words indistinct] independence. SWAPO is determined to fight for genuine independence of Namibia and against neocolonialism. We will fight until our people are democratic and free.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government Agrees To Negotiate With SWAPO

MB120440 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1804 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 11, SAPA — In a further dramatic breakthrough in its peace offensive in southern Africa, the South African Government has declared its willingness to participate in cross table talks with SWAPO. This was announced in Cape Town today by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, who said the time had come for the leaders of southern Africa to resolve their differences themselves. He said the government was willing to participate in a conference with the MPLA Government, UNITA, the Multi-Party Conference of SWA/Namibia and SWAPO.

It follows on the Lusaka accord and the pending accord of Nkomati, which would go a long way towards resolving two of the major conflicts that have plagued peace in southern Africa during the last two decades. Until now, South Africa has been intransigent in its unwillingness to talk direct to SWAPO, but in the dramatic events of the past few months which have thrown overboard any normal understanding of the southern African situation, the new move does not come as a total surprise.

The South African Prime Minister Mr P.W. Botha's meeting with President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia two years ago set the stage for a flurry of diplomatic dealings that have astounded the world.

While the rest of the world considered a peaceful solution to the intricate and highly involved problems of South Africa as being virtually insoluble, major diplomatic breakthroughs were occurring behind the scenes. The first evidence of the new resolve of African laeders to resolve their difficulties themselves came with the surprise announcement that South Africa and its Marxist socialist neighbor had reached accord.

Pik Botha Discusses Negotiations

MB120600 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says although tension in southern Africa has been reduced, the South African Government is convinced that real peace will be achieved only if all those involved show a willingness to have peace. Speaking in Cape Town, he said the time had come for the leaders of southern Africa to resolve their differences themselves.

He told our political correspondent that the South African-Angolan Joint Monitoring Commission was fulfilling its function satisfactorily. South Africa announced on 31 January that it had started withdrawing its troops from Angola in preparation for a cease-fire. It was decided to establish a joint commission to monitor the withdrawal. Mr Botha confirmed that he; the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha; the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan; the adminstrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk; and senior officials had met in northern South-West Africa during the weekend to consider the state of affairs both internally and abroad concerning the latest developments in the territory. The South African component of the Monitoring Commission had made a full report. Mr Botha said it was encouraging to learn that the South African and Angolan representatives of the commission had developed a good working relationship.

In an earlier statement, Mr Botha said South Africa was willing to participate in a conference of all those involved in the present conflict in South-West Africa. He identified the parties as the South African Government, the MPLA-Labor government and UNITA in Angola, the Multiparty Conference of South-West Africa and SWAPO. Mr Botha said South Africa was willing to participate in such a conference without any preconditions except the realization of peace. Mr Botha said if the offer was accepted, the parties involved could agree on a chairman, date, and venue for such a conference. The South African Government would prefer the conference to be held in an African country. Mr Botha said the South African desire for a peaceful solution to the problems of the region was clear from the agreement it reached with Angola last month. Although tension in the region had eased, the South African Government believed that genuine peace in the region could only be obtained if all the parties concerned showed they really desired peace.

Frontline States' Leaders Said Invited to Signing

MB100745 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 10 Mar 84 p 1

[By Chris Freimond, political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Cape Town — In a dramatic new development in the search for peace in southern Africa, the leaders of the Frontline States may attend next Friday's signing of the peace pact between South Africa and Mozambique.

The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, confirmed in Cape Town yesterday that Mozambique and South Africa had agreed that each government could invite a number of guests to the signing which will take place near Komatipoort.

He said South Africa's guests would include diplomats, businessmen and editors, and he believed that Mozambique had invited a number of foreign heads of state. The pact will be signed by the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

It is understood that Mozambican invitations have gone out to the frontline state leaders — President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, President Quett Masire of Botswana, President Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe.

There was no indication last night of how the invitations had been received. While it was considered likely that Mr Kaunda and Mr Masire would accept invitations, observers believed it would be significant if Mr Nyerere, Mr Dos Santos and Mr Mugabe attended. The attendance of African heads of state would be seen as open approval of Mozambique's pact with South Africa.

Mr Kaunda has been closely involved in peace efforts in Southern Africa. In 1982 he held historic talks with Mr P.W. Botha on the Botswana border and hosted talks in Lusaka last month between South Africa and Angola.

Mr Masire is a close ally of Mr Machel and also has reasonably sound relations with South Africa. Although Mr Mugabe has a relatively peaceful relationship with South Africa, he has kept a low public profile in the current regional peace initiative. Mr Dos Santos may feel it would not be diplomatic to attend the signing because of his continuing efforts to secure peace in his own country.

Mr Nyerere — the doyen of the frontline leaders and greatly respected throughout Africa — could lend considerable respectability to the peace pact if he attends the signing.

South Africa's guest list has not been disclosed, but it is understood it might include hundreds of names, among them foreign ambassadors to South Africa, leading businessmen and industrialists and newspaper editors.

RSA, Mozambique To Guard Cahora Bassa Powerline

MB111100 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 11 Mar 84 p 2

[By Brian Pottinger, political correspondent]

[Text] South African and Mozambican forces — once eyeball-to-eyeball along the eastern borders — will soon be jointly guarding the crucial Cahora Bassa powerlines against Mozambican rebels.

Major elements in South Africa's swiftly unfolding peace initiative which has stunned the world include:

— A likely Maputo amnesty for the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] rebels band;
— A joint Mozambique-South African Monitoring Commission;
— The possibility that other Southern African leaders will attend the milestone "Accord of Nkomati" on Friday — including possible representation of South Africa's independent homelands.

Other developments this week include:

— Indications of a temporary "freeze" in the operations of the Angolan Monitoring Commission because of the SWAPO thrust into SWA/Namibia;
— Growing resistance in the powerful U.S. right wing to peace moves in Angola;
— Strong pressures in certain African capitals for a meeting between UNITA leader Dr Jonas Savimbi and President Dos Santos of Angola.

On Tuesday a Mozambican delegation arrives in Cape Town to thrash out the final arrangements by which Portuguese interests in the money-spinning Cahora Bassa project pass to Mozambique while South Africa becomes the chief consumer. A critical element in bringing the scheme back on line — it has been plagued for years by MNR sabotage — will be joint military forces to guard the powerlines.

The prospect of South African-Mozambican joint action against Renamo is stunning. Last year SAAF [South African Air Force] jets attacked alleged ANC bases in Maputo and commando squads have carried out raids into the capital. There has also been the constant Mozambican charge that South Africa has been aiding the Renamo rebels.

The peace accord will make provision for a joint security monitoring commission based on the Angolan model to monitor ANC military activities in the territory and alleged South African support for Renamo.

It is expected that the Maputo government will soon offer the Renamo rebels an amnesty.

Maputo is believed to have invited some heads of southern African states to attend the Nkomati summit, but it is still unclear who has accepted. Observers believe President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia — African elder statesman and fervent peacemaker — is a possibility; Swazi Prime Minister Prince A.B. Dhlamini is another. It is also possible that South Africa will invite the ambassadors of the TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei] countries.

But on the western flank, there is concern about the increase in SWAPO cross-border activity. The Angolan peace initiative is still firmly on course, but indications are that the operations of the Joint Monitoring Commission in southern Angola have been "frozen" pending clarification of the situation.

Originally the JMC was scheduled to move slowly southwards rendevousing at roughly weekly intervals at various south Angolan towns. The movement south has apparently been temporarily halted. South Africa is believed to be waiting for Angola to inform the rebel SWAPO cadres of the dangers of their actions. Observers believe SWAPO is trying to throw its troops into SWA/Namibia before its Angolan sanctuaries are closed.

Renamo and UNITA representatives and former FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front] leader Holden Roberto are also bringing pressure to bear on the powerful conservative caucus in the United States to use its undoubted influence with the White House to scuttle the whole peace initiative.

In Washington as well there is concern that rumoured moves towards a meeting between the internal parties and SWAPO would severely hamper U.S. efforts to ensure Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola.

Mandela Rejects Conditional Release Into Transkei

MB111059 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Nelson Mandela is angry over Transkei's offer to obtain his conditional release from prison. That is according to his wife Winnie's legal representative Ismael Ayob. Winnie visited Mandela at Cape Town's Pollsmoor Prison this week and put the offer to him.

[Begin Ayob recording] Mandela has rejected any offer made by the South Africans for his conditional release. He also rejected homelands and all who collaborated with them. He said he would not stay in a homeland under any circumstances and if he is banished there, he would return to Johannesburg immediately. He has also referred to his allegiance to the ANC and the Freedom Charter. [end recording]

Nzo Says ANC Permitted To Remain in Mozambique

MB091945 Harare THE SUNDAY MAIL in English 4 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The ANC accepts that at present Mozambique and other neighbours of South Africa cannot offer its bases from which to attack the Pretoria regime. At the same time the struggle will continue, it has promised.

This was stated yesterday by Cde Alfred Nzo, secretary-general of the ANC, who was in Harare last week en route to Lusaka after discussions in Maputo, when commenting on the recent talks between Mozambique and South Africa.

"We have not lost faith in our brothers," Cde Nzo said, pointing out that the ANC appreciated the position in which Mozambique found itself at present. This meant the ANC understood that South Africa's neighbours were not in a position to allow the struggle to be organized from their territory.

The ANC was not aware of the kind of security arrangements which may be arrived at regarding border or other controls. This was a matter for an independent state to decide.

Cde Nzo commented that what was important was the fact that the rumours that the ANC or certain individuals would be expelled from Maputo were subsequentlly dispelled. "The ANC can stay as long as it likes," he said, reiterating that particularly after talks with comrades in Maputo, it was clear that Mozambique is "fully committed to supporting the ANC diplomatically, and morally."

Mozambique could continue to speak in favour of the ANC in international platforms. As in the past, Mozambique accepted that the strategy chosen by the people of South Africa and the ANC was their choice and this was therefore accepted. "Mozambique has not turned its back on the ANC," said Cde Nzo and, within its limits, it would continue to support the struggle. Moreover, the ANC diplomatic mission "will not be limited in any way to contact Mozambique society," in order to discuss the South African problems, Cde Nzo explained.

Mozambique had made it clear that it was the prerogative of the ANC and the people of South Africa to decide on their strategy. While it was difficult for Mozambique to provide facilities for carrying out this struggle, support would not be lacking. In any event, this was in keeping with the OAU Charter, which demanded the total liberation of the continent, he said.

Cde Nzo pointed out that the important issue was apartheid and South Africa itself. This was the source for the instability in the region and had to be eliminated. South Africa had been unable to contain the situation inside its own country or Namibia and had then resorted to its strategy of destabilisation, "the carrot and the stick strategy," Cde Nzo said.

As a result the region had suffered economically. This had to be discussed between the independent states and the only way to do that was to make contact. The ANC understood this. At the same time, Cde Nzo felt that South Africa was a most unreliable partner and that the talks were a question of a tiger sitting down to talk with a lamb and these were "very strange bedfellows."

Cde Nzo agreed that SWAPO, once it governed independent Namibia, could not instantly offer physical support for the ANC. Nonetheless, Namibia's independence, like that of Zimbabwe and before that of the former Portuguese territories such as Angola and Mozambique, was of vital importance. The people of South Africa realized by these examples that it was possible to succeed against superior forces.

He also said that Zimbabwe had made its opposition to apartheid clear and its support for the struggle, according to an announcement made soon after independence.

Cde Nzo said he had an opportunity to meet, unofficially and briefly, Cde Nathan Shamuyarira, minister of information, posts and telecommunications.

Police Skirmish With 'Terrorists' Causes Casualties

Two Policemen Wounded

MB120606 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Two constables of the South African police were wounded shortly before midnight in a skirmish with a group of armed men between Evaton and Ennerdale, south of Johannesburg. The divisional commissioner of police on the West Rand, Brigadier Coetzee, says it is believed that the armed men might have been terrorists. Brig Coetzee said two constables of the dog patrol unit at De Deur spotted a suspect vehicle at a railway crossing on the old Golden Highway between Ennerdale and Evaton at about 2330 last night. When they approached the vehicle, shots were fired at them from automatic weapons. The police returned the fire and the vehicle raced off. In a high-speed chase, shots were fired from both sides until the vehicle was forced to stop in a maize field near Evaton. The occupants of the vehicle escaped in the dark and several weapons were found in the car. Blood was also found in the car, which indicated that one of the occupants might have been wounded. Brig Coetzee said an extensive search was under way. Brig Coetzee said, meanwhile, a police from Vereeniging had come upon two constables struggling with a black man in a car. Both constables were wounded and were admitted to hospital where their condition is described as serious. Their assailant was shot dead.

Manhunt Launched

MB120855 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Roadblocks have been set up and a massive manhunt has been launched near Vereeniging in an effort to catch seven suspected terrorists who fled last night after (?fire fights) with the police in two separate incidents. The divisional commissioner of police on West Rand, Brigadier Jan Coetzee, said that police reinforcements from Pretoria, a helicopter, and tracker dogs were being used in the search.

The incidents occured when two policemen approached a suspicious looking blue Cortina near the Stratford-on-Avon Station at about 0300 this morning. The car's occupants opened fire on the two policemen and fled. Roadblocks were set up and a white Toyota Cressida was stopped. Two policemen, Constable Jan Botha and Detective Tshabango, were injured when the occupants of the car opened fire. One of them was shot dead and the others fled.

Two Suspected Terrorists Killed

MB121152 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Another of the suspected terrorists who fired on the police south of Johannesburg last night has been shot dead. This follows an extensive manhunt for eight suspected terrorists who fired on the police in two separate incidents near the Stratford Railway Station between Johannesburg and Vereeniging, wounding two policemen. One of the attackers was shot dead in one of the incidents. The divisional commissioner of police on the West Rand, Brigadier Jan Coetzee, said the search was continuing for the six other suspected terrorists. Police reinforcements from Pretoria, a helicopter, and tracker dogs were being used. The second terrorist was shot dead about 2 hours ago after he had thrown a hand grenade at the police. None of the policemen was injured.

Sabotage Seen in Explosion at Ermelo Fuel Depot

Initial Report

MB110520 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] A powerful explosion rocked the petrol depot at Ermelo early this morning and set several tanks ablaze. The Ermelo fire brigade and fire brigades from neighboring towns rushed to the scene to try to quell 10-meter-high flames. Police say houses near the depot have been evacuated and an area about 1 km in radius has been cordoned off around the blazing tanks. The explosion occurred at about 0200 this morning. Dense smoke and flames are preventing fire fighters from finding out exactly how many tanks are on fire.

Police Confirm Sabotage

MB111252 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] This morning's explosion in Ermelo was the result of sabotage. That has been confirmed by the South African Police. A series of blasts hit the Mobil Petrol Depot in the Eastern Transvaal town at about 0200 this morning, extensively damaging five fuel tanks. A number of nearby tankers were also damaged. A number of people in the surrounding area were evacuated after the outbreak of a fire caused by the explosions. They have all now been allowed to return to their homes.

Government Drops Charges Against Sparks, Simons

MB100611 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] SAPA reports that the state has dropped all charges against a former editor of the *RAND DAILY MAIL*, Mr Allister Sparks, his wife, Mrs Sue Sparks, and a foreign journalist, Mr Bernard Simons. Mr Sparks had faced charges of quoting a banned person and of contravening the Police Act, while Mrs Sparks and Mr Simons had been charged with attempting to defeat the ends [as heard] of justice. They were due to appear in court in Johannesburg on Monday. An attorney acting for the three told SAPA that he had been informed by the office of the public prosecutor that it would no longer be necessary for them to appear.

ZAMBIA

Reportage on Toivo Meeting With Nujoma in Lusaka

Welcomed by Nujoma

MB091934 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Namibian freedom fighter and party founder member, Herman Toivo ja Toivo, arrived in Lusaka today to an emotional hero's welcome and immediately declared himself pleased to step on free soil for the first time. Mr Toivo ja Toivo immediately ended speculation about his position within the SWAPO movement when he told an airport news conference in Lusaka that he is just a SWAPO member with no intentions for a position. The SWAPO fighter said, however, that he was prepared to serve in any capacity SWAPO gave him in the cause of Namibia's independence.

SWAPO President Sam Nujoma, who was among hundreds of Lusaka residents who joined SWAPO cadres to welcome Mr Toivo, described the freed nationalist as the hero of the struggle who was being welcomed with open arms.

In Johannesburg, Mr Toivo ja Toivo was quoted as saying the first step towards the territory's independence had shrunk in recent years. The Namibian nationalist, who arrived in Lusaka for a meeting with Mr Nujoma, told newsman that he felt statehood had been nearer in 1978, after a UN plan was drawn up for the independence of the territory with South Africa's (?refusal) in defiance of the UN. He said South Africa had settled independence through a perilous trip and would continue to do so, because it do not want a proper government in Namibia.

SWAPO-ANC Cooperation Urged

MB100637 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Visiting SWAPO founder member, Herman Toivo ja Toivo, has called for closer collaboration between his organization's cadres and those of the ANC of South Africa. Speaking on arrival in Lusaka yesterday, Cormade Toivo said he had worked closely with ANC leaders like Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu while in prison on Robben Island. He said such cooperation should continue to accelerate the Namibia independence and change inside South Africa.

Nujoma Praises Kaunda's Role

MB110801 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] SWAPO President Sam Nujoma has praised President Kaunda for making available all sorts of facilities which would contribute to the development of a free Namibia. He said he was very grateful to President Kaunda, the United National Independence Party, and the Zambian people for the continued support to the fight for the liberation of Namibia.

Mr Nujoma said this in Lusaka at a dinner hosted by Dr Kaunda at State House last night in honor of the visiting founder of SWAPO, Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo, who was recently released by the South African Government after serving 16 years of a 20-year prison term on Robben Island. Mr Nujoma said he would never rest until Namibia was freed and that President Kaunda has given him ways and means of how to run a free Namibia.

Speaking at the dinner, Dr Kaunda also praised Mr Toivo for having fought the bitter conditions of prison and coming out without bitterness. The president noted that while he fought from prison, other SWAPO leaders, including Mr Nujoma, fought for the liberation from outside.

Toivo Confers With Kaunda

MB110830 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0700 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] SWAPO founder Herman Toivo ja Toivo has held talks with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda in Lusaka. He is reported to have told Kaunda that South Africa is not interested in settling the Namibian independence question. Toivo says Pretoria is only concerned with its own well-being. He said SWAPO was determined to succeed no matter what the cost and added that he knew the organization would lose some of its best people during the struggle for Namibia's independence.

SWAPO as 'Mass Party'

MB111226 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kennth Kaunda, has said it is of vital importance that SWAPO be a mass party. The president told SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma and visiting SWAPO founder member Herman Toivo ja Toivo that as a mass party the organization would protect the Government of Namibia as the United National Independence Party [UNIP] has done in Zambia.

Speaking at a dinner Dr Kaunda hosted in honor of Mr Toivo at State House last night, the president said SWAPO would as a mass party reach the masses and be better organized. Dr Kaunda also called on the ANC of South Africa to have better ties with SWAPO and UNIP to consolidate friendship with the two parties. He also called on SWAPO to support the ANC.

SWAPO ANC Support Urged

MB120719 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has urged SWAPO to financially support their sister liberation movement, the ANC of South Africa, when SWAPO becomes economically strong, in the ANC's fight for the liberation struggle. The president warned that putting ANC fighters on Namibian soil would be a difficult problem to handle. Dr Kaunda said this on Saturday night when he hosted a dinner for SWAPO president Sam Nujoma, SWAPO founder member Herman Toivo ja Toivo, and acting SWAPO vice president, Hendrik Witbooi at State House. He said SWAPO should continue their supporting role economically and not militarily. He also advised the OAU to strengthen ties between the ANC and SWAPO and the United National Independence Party to avoid upsetting the independence of Namibia.

Kaunda Calls on RSA To Withdraw Troops From Namibia

MB110752 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] President Kaunda has called on South Africa to withdraw her troops from Namibia like she had agreed to withdraw them from Angola. The President said this would lead to the preparation in the country of the implementation of UN Resolution 435 for the country's independence. In his address to the fifth graduation ceremony of 136 UN Institute for Namibia students at Mulungushi Hall yesterday, Dr Kaunda called on South Africa to seize advantage of the dialog it had recently opened with the frontline states to allow Namibia independence and add to southern African regional security. He said Zambia wants to see important steps which have been taken in this disengagement process to hold very firmly. The president said from this position the process should move forward to implementation of Resolution 435 on the United Nations without delay. He, however, warned that South Africa would only be increasing regional tension if she did not seize the current dialogue to take steps towards the implementation of the UN plan.